

Misplaced

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Summary: A disruption in the Eclipse Gate alters the course of one boy's life forever. Now belonging to a world he was never supposed to know, he lives a new life full of adventure, love, and just a dash of craziness. It's not about where you are, but who you are that defines you. A FTxRWBY crossover.

1. A New History

"Are you sure this is the right thing to do? They're only children."

"Whether this is right or wrong is irrelevant at this point. This is the only thing we **can** do. These five children are our last hope to defeat that monster."

"I am well aware of that but..." the conflicted young woman looked to the children as they started to stir from their slumber. They were so innocent. Completely unaware of the danger that would be facing them all too soon. "It feels as if we are sending them to their death."

"Sadly death awaits them if they stay in this time as well. There is not enough Ethernano in this time for them to recover. The future has to be a better place than here." A brooding young man explained to her. "Will your clan be able to open the gate for them once they arrive?"

"I have no doubt."

"Then are we ready to begin?"

The woman reluctantly nodded. She was still not certain of this plan, but it was the only thing that could be done. She turned to face the gate behind her.

It was massive in size, towering over nearly all of the trees behind it. She still wondered at times how they managed to create something so enormous, but that was mostly due to her partner's influence. She felt the power oozing out from the closed doors of the gate. It was at equal parts ominous, dark, and frightening. It was all too clear that dark magic aided in this structure's creation.

Pushing the thoughts of fear to the back of her mind, the refined young woman slowly pulled out a golden key from under her cloak.

The key started to glow bright; the orb at the top of the gate reacting in response. Eleven more keys appeared from under the woman's cloak, each one floating into a lock on doors of the gate as if being pulled along by an invisible string. Once the rest of the keys were set, she walked to the gate, placing the key in her hand in the center of the door. When she turned the key the gate slowly opened up, revealing a swirling vortex of purple and blue energy. The pressure it exuded was almost enough to bring her to her knees.

She managed to step back. "It's done."

"Thank you, Anna." The young man walked forward, the children â€“ now fully awake â€“ close behind him.

"What's happening, Ms. Anna?" one of the children asked. She was little girl with long blue hair. Clearly the youngest of the children, it was obvious from the shaky tone of her voice that she was frightened.

"You are all going to a better place." Anna smiled softly. "Somewhere you will be able to grow up happy. A place where you will be safe."

"Are you coming with us?" Another one of the children â€“ a boy with spiked blonde hair - asked.

"Sadly I cannot. I have to stay here and close the gate behind you."

"If you're not going then I'm not either!" another boy shouted. He sat on the ground next to Anna with his legs crossed and a pout on his lips. His bright pink hair and scaly white scarf lightly waving in the breeze.

Anna walked over to him with a warm smile. This wasn't the first time he opposed this plan. "But it is your job to make sure your brothers and sister get through safely." she calmly explained to the boy. "If one of you doesn't go then there could be trouble. You don't want them to be in danger do you?"

The boy thought of this for a moment "No." he grumbled.

"I thought not." Anna stood up and held out her hand to him. "Don't be afraid. If you're all together, then things will not be so bad."

The boy grabbed her hand and walked with her back to the gate, where he was joined by the rest of the children. "Will we see you again?"

Anna smile softened and she shook her head. "No, you will not. But I will always be thinking of you. All of you. Are you ready?"

The children all nodded with the exception of the blue-haired girl.

"I'm scared." She said, her lip quivering.

"It's ok!" The pink-haired boy declared, grabbing her hand.

"Nothing's going to happen to you! I promise!" He smiled wide, all of his teeth showing.

"Ok." The girl nodded with a small smile of her own, wiping away her tears and squeezing his hand tightly.

"Quickly, children. You must go to the gate. Please, protect yourselves and each other." Anna hurried them to the gate and gave them one last hug before they went in.

The children watched the gate doors close, before they free fell into a boundless void of energy.

"What's going to happen to us?!" the blonde boy asked.

"I don't know, but Anna said we'll be fine if we stick together!" a boy with long black hair answered.

The children continued falling through the void. Waves upon waves of powerful magic colliding with their bodies. It was so overwhelming that it made it hard for them to breathe. Without warning, a massive wave of energy hit the group, causing their grip on each other to loosen.

"Hold on!" The long-black haired boy shouted.

The waves of energy continued to bombard them one after another.

"It hurts!"

"Just hang on!"

"Don't let go!"

Another blast of energy hit the children, this one finally causing the pink-haired boy to break his grip.

"No!" the young girl shouted. She reached out to him, but he was already floating farther and farther away.

"Help!" the boy yelled. He tried to fight the current but it was too strong. He watched his brothers and sister called out his name one last time as a wave of black energy engulfed him.

* * *

><p>"I think I'm lost."</p>

A young man with pink hair let out a low groan as we walked through the backstreets of the city of Vale. It had been a long day, and judging by how far he was from home, it would be an even longer

night.

"I should have just got on the air shipâ€¢but I hate those stupid things." He let out another sigh. He stepped out of the alley and into the Vale marketplace, seeing a shop at the edge of the street with its light still on. "Maybe I can ask the shop owner inside for directions."

When he walked towards the shop, he heard a creaking noise. "What's that?"

Suddenly the shop window shattered and man in a black and red suit and what appeared to be a mass of red cloth fly out into the street.

"What the hell?!"

He watched as the cloth rose from the ground. Now under the light of the street lamps, the boy saw that the cloth was actually part of a cloak belonging to a young girl.

She had short dark red hair, and her billowing red and black skirt gently waved in the wind. Due to the angle her head was turned, the pink-haired traveler could see the girl's striking silver eyes twinkling in the moonlight. The pole in her hand also extended, forming into a giant scythe. She swung it around, sticking the blade into the ground.

"Is that her weapon? It's huge!" he marvelled.

Unaware of her pink-headed spectator, the girl looked through the broken window of the shop at a redhead man wearing a white suit. Taking a small drag from the cigar in his mouth, his eyes narrowed on the girl.

"Ok." His tone was a mixture of surprise and irritation. He looked to his men, wondering why they were still just standing around. "Get her."

Three men in suits similar in style to the man's on the ground filed out of the shop, each surrounding the girl.

The pink-haired young man knew this meant trouble. "I should help her." He started to run to the girl's aid.

One of the men ran at the girl with his sword held high to attack, but she was ready. She gripped the polearm of her scythe tightly and lifted herself into the air. She spun around, her kicks hitting the man in the chest and sending him flying back. She vaulted her self into the air and landed on her feet perfectly, holding her scythe behind her back.

The pink-haired young man screeched to a halt. "Whoa." He said in awe.

She surveyed her remaining opponents and pulled the trigger on the polearm, the recoil of her shots sending her dashing through the street in all directions. All the while she swung her weapon with ease, knocking one of the men into the air before seamlessly slamming another into the ground.

"She's fast." the boy observed. It was like watching a dancer perform.

Soon there was only one of the suited men left. He readied his gun to shoot, but as soon as he pulled the trigger the girl was once again gone.

She pulled the scythe trigger, once again firing bullets into the air. She approached the final man in a heartbeat, sweeping him into the air. She jumped into the air after him, swinging around her scythe and knocking him back to the ground in front of his boss.

"That was awesome!" the young man exclaimed.

The man in the white suit looked down to his unconscious henchmen. "Truly worth every cent I paid." He said facetiously. He stepped toward the girl with the scythe, dropping his cigar to the ground and putting it out with his cane. "Well, Red, it's been fun. Really it has. But I'm afraid this is where we say our good byes." He pointed his cane to her, the bottom coming up to form a scope. Suddenly a blast of fire shout out from the cane.

The girl braced for impact when she saw someone get in front of her.

"Who?"

The salmon-haired boy opened his mouth wide, eating the ball of fire to the surprise of everyone.

"Wow!" the girl gasped.

"Wellâ€|that was unexpected." The white suited man sneered. He took off towards a ladder on a nearby building.

"Did you justâ€|**eat** that fire?" the girl asked her savior. "Wouldn't that burn your tongue off? Not to mention hurt...a lot?"

"Not really." the young man turned to her with a smile. "It did taste nasty though."

"Well thanks for saving meâ€|guy, but I think the bad guy is getting away." She pointed to the ladder on nearby building. Sure enough the man in the white suit was currently climbing it.

"Then what are we waiting for? Let's go get him!"

"Alright!"

The pair ran to the ladder, just to see their target reach the roof of the building.

The girl held out her hand. "Grab on. It'll be way faster if I take us up there."

"Ok." The boy took her hand. "But how are we going to get up there?"

"Just hold on tight." She grinned mischievously. She placed the top of her scythe on the ground and pulled the trigger, the force of the shot propelled the two high into the air, letting them reach the top of the building.

"This is awesome!" The boy exclaimed.

"I know right?! Totally beats climbing!"

The two landed on the roof and saw the man in the white suit standing on the edge.

"Hey!" the girl called.

He looked back to them and sneered. "Persistent pests, aren't you?"

An engine could be heard revving and slowly an airship rose up into the air from the side of the building. The fire eater's stomach started to gurgle.

"Not one of those things." He groaned. The longer he looked at the spinning propellers, the more his stomach turned.

"What's wrong?" his new friend asked with concern.

The white-suited man hopped into the open side door of the ship and turned to the pair. "End of the line, kids." He grabbed a red crystal from his jacket pocket and threw it at their feet. He then shot another blast from his cane.

"Get down!" despite his encroaching sickness the fire-eater moved to protect the girl from the ensuing explosion, but soon found himself saved by a woman with blonde hair. She had seemingly descended from the heavens, waving a riding crop to create a shield that protected all three of them from the blast. For a brief moment this woman looked familiar to the pink-haired young man, but this memory soon faded.

The blonde huffed in slight amusement, pushing up her glasses before swinging her arm again. A trail of lights zoomed to the airship, hitting it and causing it to rock unsteadily in the air.

The man in the white suit tried to stay upright during the barrage and managed to stumble his way to the ship's cockpit. "We've got a Huntress!" he told the pilot. He took over the controls while she went to take care of their attackers.

The blonde Huntress pointed her riding crop above the ship, firing a beam of energy into the air that condensed and formed into a furious storm cloud. She swung her arm downward and the cloud started to rain down pointed shards of ice upon the airship. One of them pierced the windshield, almost sticking into the white suited man's head.

"Witch!" he sneered.

The pilot walked to the still open side door of the ship. A good portion of their body was covered in heavy shadow, but the long dress

they wore and the fine manicure of their nails identified that it was woman they were now facing.

The designs on her dress started to glow and she waved her arms around, firing a ball of fire at her blonde-haired enemy.

The bespectacled woman created another shield to deflect the attack.

In response the pilot raised her arm, and a circle appeared below the blonde. Feeling a strong energy pulsing beneath her feet the blonde flipped backwards, watching an explosion erupt from where she was standing.

She pointed her riding crop to the floating debris, forming into a giant spear that she aimed at the pilot.

The woman in the airship shot continuous blasts of fire at the creation, but each time she thought she destroyed it, it reformed.

The blonde waved her arms again, changing the spear's target to the cockpit.

The man in the white suit tilted the ship down, the spear just barely grazing off the top of the vehicle. Another wave of the blonde's arm and the spear broke apart into trails that once again targeted the woman in the door again.

"How is she doing that?" the dark-haired girl asked.

"I don't know." the pink-haired boy answered. "But it looks awesome."

The shadowed woman in the ship gathered her power, creating a shockwave that disintegrated all of the debris the blonde was using as a weapon.

The girl in red's scythe blade folded in, creating a gun. She shot bullets at the woman in the ship, but they were easily deflected.

The shadowed woman waved her right arm, creating a half circle of exploding sigils around the two.

"Move!" the pink-haired boy pushed them out of the way, clearing all three of them of the explosions. When they looked up they saw the side door close and the airship fly off into the night.

"Damn." The boy cursed. "They got away. I really wanted to fight that fire chick."

"Wow!" the girl in red gasped, her eyes fixed on the blonde haired woman. "You're a huntress."

"She is?" the boy asked.

The blonde woman looked to teens she had saved. Both of their eyes were sparkling.

"Fight me!" the boy demanded.

"Can I have your autograph?!" the girl eagerly asked.

* * *

><p>"This is completely unfair."</p>

"Yeah. We didn't even do anything wrong."

The girl and her fiery new companion sat in a dimly lit room far away from where they fought their mysterious enemies. Having been virtually dragged to the room by the blonde woman with glasses, the pair anxiously awaited for her to return.

"You were pretty cool with that scythe." The boy complimented with a smile.

"Thanks. You're fire-eating was cool too. Did you have to train to be able to do that?"

"Not really, just something I could always do. Guess you could say its part of my Semblance."

"Neat. My name's Ruby by the way. Ruby Rose." The girl extended her hand. "We never got to properly talk during all of that burglar craziness. What's your name?"

"Nice to meet ya, Ruby." The boy shook her hand. "I'm—"

Before he could fully answer the door swung open, startling the both of them. They stopped shaking hands and sat attentively in their seats - backs straight and eyes forward - anxiously watching as the blonde woman who saved them walked in. She held in her arms a video tablet. It was currently playing footage from the battle in a continuous loop. She paced around the pair, her silence making them even more uneasy.

After about a minute or so she finally stopped in front them, pushing up her glasses.

"Are we in trouble?" Ruby finally asked. She was more afraid of the answer than she was the silence that proceeded it.

"That would be an understatement." The woman replied. She paced around the pair again, her eyes focused on the battle footage. "Your actions will not be taken lightly. You two not only put yourselves at risk, but who knows who many others with your reckless behavior."

"But we were only trying to help." The boy argued.

"Yeah!" Ruby spoke up. "They started it!"

The woman stopped in front of them again, when she saw the defiant looks in their eyes she sighed. "I know. Your hearts were in the right place so I can't fault you for doing what you thought was right. That's why if it were up to me I would send you both home with a pat on the back!"

The pair's eyes lit up.

"And a slap on the wrist." The woman sharply finished, slapping her riding crop on the table. Once again the two found themselves frightened - Ruby even yelping at the smack of the crop on the hard table. "Butâ€|there is someone who would like to see the both of you."

The stern woman stepped aside and in through the door walked a man with short gray hair, teashade glasses, and a plate of cookies in his hand. Neither Ruby nor the boy next to her knew what to make of him, but they were both salivating at the thought of eating the cookies.

"Ruby Rose." The man said. He leaned in close, staring at her face for a small while. "You have silver eyes."

Ruby was more than a little confused by his first words. "Umâ€|"

The man leaned back. "So. Where did you learn to do this?" he directed the pair's eyes to the tablet screen. It was currently showing Ruby's fight against the men in suits.

Ruby was hesitant to answer. "S-signal Academyâ€|" she muttered.

The man was slightly surprised at her answer. "Signal Academy?" he repeated. "They taught you how to use one of the most dangerous weapons ever designed?"

"Well not exactlyâ€|" Ruby explained. "It was one teacher in particular."

"I see. That makes much more sense." The man placed a plate of cookies before Ruby.

She warily looked to him before taking one and eating it. It was delicious. She reached for another, but the plate was quickly snatched away by her accomplice.

"Hey!"

"Showwy." The boy apologized, his mouth now full of cookies. "I haven't eaten all day."

Ruby started to pout.

"Interesting." The man looked over the footage again. "I've only seen one other person with a scythe technique this precise. A dusty old crowâ€|"

"That's my uncle." Ruby revealed. "He was my teacher at Signal. I was complete garbage until he started to train me. Now I'm allâ€|" Ruby began making kung-fu noises with her mouth as she sliced her arms through the air.

"He shounds awthum!" the boy said, still shoveling cookies into his face.

"Right?" Ruby said. "He's totally awesome."

"I want to fight him."

"I don't think you'd win. My uncle Qrow is pretty strong."

"Only one way to find out." He leaned back in his chair and burped.
"Those cookies hit the spot." He slid the plate over to Ruby. "I saved you one."

"Thanks." She smiled and ate the cookie.

The man cleared his throat, garnering both of their attentions. He then looked over to the pink-haired boy.

"You're you're Natsu Dragneel correct?"

"Yeah?" the boy raised his eyebrow. "You know me?"

"Of course. Not many forget the male heir of the Schnee family."

Natsu's eyes widened in fright. "You know my family?!" he shrieked.
"Please don't tell them I snuck off! Especially my sister! I'm begging you!"

"You can relax. I'm not going to tell them anything that happened tonight, but you probably should let them know where you are."

"You have a sister?" Ruby asked.

"Yeah." Natsu sulked. "She's really scary."

Ruby giggled. "My sister can be scary too."

The man took a seat in front of the pair. "Do either of you know who I am?"

"Should I?" Natsu retorted.

"You're Professor Ozpin." Ruby answered. "The headmaster of Beacon Academy."

"I am." The man nodded. "It is nice to meet the both of you."

"Nice to meet you as well." Ruby respectfully returned.

"Waitâ€|Beacon Academy?" Natsu asked. "That's that school that trains people to be Hunters and Huntresses right?"

"I'm surprised you know of it." Ozpin chuckled.

"Of course I do. I'm not a total idiot."

"That remains to be seen." The blonde woman muttered.

"Now, now, Glynda." Ozpin said. "No need to be crass with the boy." He turned his attention back to Natsu. "Is that why you came here? To enroll in the academy?"

"No. I just came to Vale with my little sister. She's the one going

to Beacon."

"My older sister's going there this year too." Ruby said.

"Do you wish to join them?" Ozpin suddenly asked.

Both Natsu and Ruby were stuck dumb by his question.

"I still have two years left at Signal." Ruby pointed out.

"And my grades aren't high enough to get in to Beacon." Natsu said.

"Hm." Ozpin grinned. "I'm sure I could pull some strings to allow you admittance." He looked to the blonde woman " now known as Glynda " for approval. She simply looked away as if to say "it's your decision."

Ozpin looked back to the pair. "What do you say? Would the two of you like to come to my school?"

Natsu and Ruby looked at one another for a few seconds before smiling and looking back to Ozpin.

"More than anything." Ruby accepted happily.

"Where do we sign up?" Natsu asked.

* * *

><p>Due to the success of Dungeons & Dragon (which I can't thank you guys enough for by the way), I decided to start another a crossover. In case you guys haven't figured it out yet, this time I'm crossing Fairy Tail with RWBY. However unlike Dungeons & Dragon where i mixed the worlds of DanMachi and FT, this fic is more placing one character inside the already existing world as someone raised there (that being Natsu obviously).

**I noticed other RWBYxFT crossovers are basically Natsu comes to Remnant with his memories or abilities intact in some form or fashion. Personally I think that can be a bit lazy in terms of building a character so I decided to change up the formula just a bit. As such Natsu has never met Fairy Tail or know anything about Earthland. Also (since I know some people may ask) this is NOT a harem story. **

**And don't worry, I won't neglect Dungeons & Dragon. **

So what do you guys think? Would this be a story you are interested in me continuing? Let me know your thoughts in a review.

Thanks for reading!

2. Welcome to Beacon!

The distorted dimensional waves of the eclipse gate continuously crashed and twisted against the boy's body, racking him with a seemingly unending pain.

"It hurts." He breathed, tears stinging his eyes.

Unable to move, all he could do was fall further into the void. No concept of time. No sense of direction. No awareness of himself or his surroundings. The boy's senses began to wane.

First he went blind.

He screamed, but soon his ears could no longer hear his cries.

Tears streamed down his face, but in a matter of moments his cheeks went numb and he could not feel them.

Finally all of his senses were gone. He was scared. Terrified. His heart was beating so fast that he thought it would stop at any second.

Am I going to die? He thought. I don't want to die. His consciousness started to fade. I don't care!

That was when the light appeared.

* * *

><p>Natsu slowly opened his eyes to a bright light.</p>

Hearing faint murmurs and whispers he turned his head, seeing boys and girls roughly his age looking at him with eyes of wariness, fear, and even disgust.

"What happened? Where am I? Why's everyone looking at me like that?"

He looked down, his stomach gurgling when he saw the city of Vale slowly moving by down below. He started getting dizzy.

"Oh yeah!"

Natsu groaned, his body hunched over the airship railing.

Accepting Professor Ozpin's offer, both Natsu and his new friend Ruby Rose were on their way to Beacon Academy with a host of other prospective students. Unfortunately for Natsu he wasn't told that they would be taking an airship to the school until it was too late.

Hearing a low groan Natsu turned his head again, this time seeing a boy with short blonde hair hunched over the railing just as he was. The young man's face was almost completely green from motion sickness.

"I know how you feel, buddy." Natsu sympathized, fighting back his own vomit.

While Natsu suffered through his vehicle induced torture, Ruby was having problems of her own.

"Oh I can't believe that my baby sister got into Beacon with me! This is so awesome!" A girl with long blonde hair wrapped her arms around Ruby's neck, squeezing the young girl close to her body in a tight

hug.

"Yang!" Ruby gasped, tapping her sister's arm.
"Can't breathe!."

Yang let go and looked at her relieved sister with a smile. "I'm so proud of you!"

"Really, sis, it was nothing." Ruby downplayed.

Despite getting into the school she had always dreamed of, Ruby was now noticeably less enthusiastic than her spirited older sister. The rush of elation from last night was gone. Replaced by the crippling anxiety that one normally associated with the first day of high school.

"What are you talking about? This is incredible!" Yang shouted.
"Everyone's gonna think you're the bee's knees!"

"I don't want to be the bee's knees! I don't want to be anyone's knees. I just want to be a normal girl with normal knees."

Yang was confused by her sister's apprehension. "What's with you? Lots of other people would kill to be in your shoes."

"That's the problem." Ruby confessed. "I got moved ahead two years. I don't want to rub anyone the wrong way because they think I'm special!"

Yang wrapped her arm around her sullen sister's back and pulled her close. "But you are special."

Ruby wasn't so sure.

"The robbery was led by nefarious criminal Roman Torchwick!"

Ruby and Yang looked over to the holographic display of the Vale Network News on the side of the airship. Depicted on the screen was a mug shot of a man with bright orange hair and a white jacket. Despite the numerous bruises and bandages on his face, his smile was all too smug.

"If you have any information on his whereabouts, please contact the Vale police department."

"Hey!" Natsu pointed from the floor. He was no longer hunched over the ledge, but was still too weak to stand, so he sat on his knees.
"That's the guy we fought last night!" His cheeks puffed out and quickly darted back over the railing, the sound of his puking making everyone take one huge step back.

"What's with that guy?" Yang asked, pointing to Natsu. "He sick or something?"

"That's Natsu." Ruby reminded her sister. "Remember? He helped me fight that Torchwick jerk."

"Oh yeah. You did mention that." Yang said dismissively. "Why's his hair pink? He dye it or something?"

Ruby started to say something, but paused. "That's a really good question."

A woman " named Lisa Lavender as indicated on the bar below her - was now on the screen.

"In other news this Saturday's Faunus civil rights protest turned dark when members of the White Fang disrupted the ceremony." She reported.

Natsu briefly regained composure during the report. "The White Fang!" he said to himself, his eyes narrowing some.

"The once peaceful organization has now disrupted- "Suddenly the news feed cut out and a hologram of Professor Ozpin's assistant, Glynda Goodwitch " the woman who assisted Ruby and Natsu " appeared before the students.

"Hello and welcome to Beacon." She greeted the students. "My name is Glynda Goodwitch. You all are among a privileged few who have received the honor of being selected to attend this prestigious academy. Our world is currently experiencing an incredible time of peace, and as future Huntsmen and Huntresses, it is your duty to uphold it.

You have all demonstrated the skills needed for such a task, and now it is our job to provide you with the knowledge and training to protect our world. We hope you will enjoy the experience." With that the hologram faded.

"Wow." Ruby gasped. She walked to the starboard window " as did a few other students " as the ship slowly exited Vale's city limits. "This is incredible. You can see Signal from up here."

"I guess home isn't that far after all." Yang said, once again placing her hand on her sister's shoulder.

Natsu continued to groan in agony, his stomach gurgling even louder. The boy next to him retched as well.

"I guess the view isn't for everyone. " Yang joked.

"Look!" Ruby pointed. "I can see Beacon!"

The ship slowly approached what appeared to be a massive castle overlooking a crystal clear waterfall.

"I wonder who we'll meet." Yang said.

"I just hope they're better than vomit boy." Ruby answered, pointing her thumb at the puking blonde.

"Yeah. Bubblegum head doesn't seem all that good either." Yang said of Natsu.

"Hey!" he shouted in offense. Natsu turned to face Yang, but felt a another rumbling in his stomach. "Oh crap!" I turned around too fast!" His cheeks puffed out, his face turning green as he lurched closer to the frightened sisters.

"Hey! Hey! Hey!" Yang yelled, backing away.

"Natsu, wait! Stop!" Ruby shouted. "Get away! Get away!"

* * *

><p>"Finally!" Natsu burst forth from the open door of the ship like a man being released from prison. He fell to his knees, kissing the dirt beneath his feet repeatedly in thanks. "No more flying death traps!"</p>

"You're feeling a lot better." Ruby giggled as she and Yang walked past him.

"Yep!" Natsu smiled. He soon caught up to the pair, walking with them as they approached the school's main courtyard.

"So what's the deal with your hair?" Yang asked, pointing to the top of Natsu's head. "You dye it or something?"

Natsu pulled on one of his bangs and looked at it in the sun. "No. I was born like this."

"That's weird."

"Wow." They heard Ruby gasp.

The trio looked ahead, all of them in awe of how beautiful and serene the school grounds were. The land seemed to stretch for miles. With trees, shrubs, lush green grass, and pristine stone walkways leading to the school's amphitheater. The three slowly craned their necks upward, their eyes finding the green lights shining down from Beacon Tower.

"The view from Vale's got nothing on this." Yang commented.

"You said it." Natsu agreed. "This place looks awesome."

Other students started to walk by, Ruby's eyes sparkling even more when she saw their weapons. "Ohhh! Look, guys, look!" she squealed. She began pointing at people as they walked by. "That kid's got a collapsible staff! And she has a fire sword!" She started follow after them, but her sister pulled her back by the hood of her cloak. "Ow. Ow. Ow."

"Calm down, little sis." Yang said.

"These kids look strong." Natsu said with a mischievous grin. "I can't wait to fight them."

"You cool it too, bubblegum head."

"My name is Natsu."

"Yeah, whatever. Anyway why are you guys so excited?" Yang asked. "They're just weapons."

Ruby gasped in horror at her sister's apparently offensive question. "Just weapons?" she repeated. "These are more than 'just weapons',

Yang. They're an extensions of ourselves, a part of us! They're so cool! Right, Natsu?"

"I don't really care about that stuff." Natsu admitted. "I like to fight people with my bare hands." Natsu held up a clenched fist, igniting it in flames.

"Whoa!" Yang shouted. "How are you doing that? Is it some kind of magic trick?"

"No. It's my semblance."

"That's pretty awesome. I'd love to see what that could do in a fight."

Natsu raised an eyebrow. "You challenging me?"

"Dependsâ€|" Yang grinned. "You man enough to accept?"

A cocky smirk crossed Natsu's lips. "Bring it."

Ruby cleared her throat, grabbing the pair's attention. "We were talking about weapons?" she reminded them.

"Right." Yang reset, leaving Natsu somewhat disappointed. "Why do you like seeing other weapons anyway, Ruby? Don't you like yours?"

"Yeah. I thought yours was pretty cool when I saw it." Natsu complimented.

Ruby opened her scythe and cradled it like a child. "Of course I love Crescent Rose." She said. "I just like seeing new weapons. It's like meeting new peopleâ€|only better."

Yang playfully pulled her sister's hood over her head. "Come on, Ruby. Why don't you try and make some friends of your own? You've already got one." Yang motioned towards Natsu â€" who was currently picking his nose with his pinky out of boredom. He had completely checked out of the conversation.

Weirdâ€|I feel like I'm forgetting something. He thought. _But what?_

Ruby sighed. "I guess butâ€|why do I need friends if I have you?"

Yang stepped back, and group of people suddenly surrounded her. "Actually my friends are here now gotta go bye!" Yang and her friends raced off like the wind, dizzying Ruby.

She spun around, her eyes spirals as she tried to steady herself. "Wait! Where are you going?!" she called out to Yang, but her sister was long gone. "Aren't we supposed to go to our dorms? Where are our dorms? Do we have dorms? I don't know what I'm doing." Ruby fell over, crashing into a cart of luggage.

"Ruby, you ok?!" Natsu knelt down to help her.

"Yeahâ€|" she replied dizzily. "Just dandy."

"Natsu?" A voice called.

A chill went up the young man's spine. Crapâ€œ|I remember what I forgot now._

"Natsu?" Ruby called. "What's wrong?"

Ruby craned her neck upward, seeing a girl with long white hair tied in an off-center ponytail standing over them. She wore a pale blue and white thigh length dress with a pale blue bolero over it. She looked like a princess â€“ a rather angered one if her squinted eyes, twisted mouth, and crossed arms were any indication.

"Natsu, I'm talking to you!" the princess said forcefully.

"Do you know this girl?" Ruby asked him.

Natsu let out a deep sigh. "Yeah. I do." He slowly stood up, the "princesses" irritated eyes never leaving him.

Ruby was still confused.

"Ruby, this is Weissâ€œ|my younger sister." He reluctantly introduced.

"Where were you? You know what don't tell me. You and I will have a talk about your absence later." Weiss warned.

Natsu slumped. "Yeah. I know."

"As for you." Weiss now directed her fury towards Ruby. "Just what do you think you're doing? You could have ruined everything."

"S-sorry." Ruby nervously apologized. It was clear that the luggage on the dirt belonged to her.

"Sorry? Do you have any idea the damage you could have caused?"

"Calm down, Weiss." Natsu said.

"You stay out of this."

Ruby held out one of the luggage bags she toppled over to Weiss as a sort of peace offering, but the angered girl simply snatched it away.

"Give me that!" Weiss opened the case, inspecting the vials inside. Each one contained what appeared to be colored sand. "This is dust! Mined and purified in the Schnee Quarry." She explained to Ruby.

"Uh." Was all Ruby could say in reply.

"You brought that much?" Natsu questioned his sister.

Weiss ignored her brother. "Are you brain dead?" she asked the still shocked Ruby. "Dust." She took out a vial with red Dust and shook it,

particles coming out of what was supposed to be an enclosed top.
"Fire! Water! Lightning! Energy!"

The Dust particles floating around from Weiss' shaking started to tickle Ruby's nose, making her eyes water.

"Are you even listening to me? Is any of this sinking into that rock head of yours?"

"Hey, Weiss, maybe you shouldn't shake that stuff around so much." Natsu warned.

"I told you to stay out of this." She looked back to Ruby. "Well? What do you have to say for yourself?"

The inside of Ruby's nose began to itch and her mouth opened wide.

"Weiss!" Natsu shouted.

Ruby sneezed and the dust particles reacted, causing a mini explosion. Natsu shielded his sister from the blast. When the dust settled, both of them were covered in soot.

"Natsu, are you alright?!" Weiss asked in fright.

"I'm fine." He coughed. "What about you?"

"I'm ok."

"I'm really really sorry!" Ruby apologized, sniffing and rubbing her nose.

"This is exactly what I was talking about!" Weiss freed herself from Natsu's grip and stormed over to Ruby. "You complete dolt!"

"Weiss, it was an accident. Calm down." Natsu said.

Weiss continued to berate the apologetic Ruby. "What if you had hurt yourself, or me, or my brother?! What are you even doing here anyway?! Aren't you too young to be at Beacon?"

Ruby looked at the ground, her eyes unable to meet Weiss' rage-filled stare. "W-well I-"

"This is not some run-of-the-mill combat school. There's more here than just sparring and practicing. We're here to fight monsters. So watch where you're going!"

"Weiss." Natsu said firmly.

Ruby had finally had enough. "Hey! I said I was sorry, Princess."

"It's 'heiress' actually." A voice corrected.

The trio watched as a girl with long black hair and a bow tied at the top of her head approached them. In her hand was the vial that Weiss had been holding earlier. During the explosion it rolled into her foot.

"Weiss and Natsu Schnee. Heirs to the Schnee Dust Company. One of the largest producers of energy propellant in the world."

Schnee? Ruby looked to Natsu in slight confusion. _I thought his last name was Dragneel._

Weiss faced the rather brazen girl with a superior smirk on her lips. "Finally. Some recognition." She turned to Ruby, her smug face seeming to say "take that!"

Ruby rolled her eyes.

The black-haired girl continued. "The same company that is infamous for its controversial labor forces and questionable business partners."

Natsu gave no reply to this. Honestly, he had no interest in his family's company or its business practices. His sister was a different story.

"What?! How dareâ€¦the nerve ofâ€¦" Weiss was rendered a sputtering mess.

Ruby giggled. She found it amusing that the haughty heiress had been put in her place by this mysterious stranger. Something like karmic justice.

With one final huff Weiss stormed off, but Natsu remained.

Ever since this unknown girl showed up, Natsu couldn't help but think he had met her somewhere before. Stepping closer, he poked out his nose and sniffed the air around her.

"What are you doing? Get away from me." She demanded, taking a step back.

"You smell familiar." he said.

"W-what?"

Weiss returned, grabbing her brother's scaled scarf and dragging him off into the distance like he was a lost pet. They were followed by two men in suits â€" bodyguards that Weiss had brought with her; they also set the luggage cases back onto the carrier during the commotion.

"We're leaving, Natsu!"

"Wait, Weiss!" Natsu struggled. His sister's grip was surprisingly strong for someone her size. His scarf started to tighten around his neck. "Not so hard!" he choked.

"I'm sorry, Natsu!" Ruby shouted after him. "I promise I'll make it up to the both of you!"

"Don't worry about it!" Natsu waved to his new friend as he and his sister shrank in the distance. "I'll see you later!"

Ruby sighed once they faded out of sight. "I guess I'm not the only

one with a rough first day. So...what's your-"

She turned to girl with black hair, but to Ruby's dismay she was walking away as well. Ruby fell to her knees in exhaustion before falling to her back on the paved courtyard road.

"Welcome to Beacon." She said sadly to herself.

A shadow soon loomed over. Ruby looked up, seeing a boy with blonde hair standing over her. He reached out his hand with a smile.

"Hi, I'm Jaune."

Ruby sat up, a small smile on her lips as well as she took his hand. "Ruby." She introduced.

Jaune pulled Ruby to her feet. When she got a good look at his face she couldn't help but snicker.

"Aren't the other guy who threw up on the ship?"

* * *

><p>"Weiss, would you stop pulling already?" Natsu requested. "My butt's starting to chafe."</p>

Weiss acquiesced and let go of his scarf.

Natsu rubbed his sore bottom and stood. "What's the big idea anyway? Why did you pull me away?"

"Start talking." She demanded, completely ignoring his concerns. "Why are you here? Better yet where were you last night? We were all worried sick." She crossed her arms, her foot tapping impatiently on the ground while she awaited her brother's answer.

"Last night?" Natsu repeated. "Iâ€|ummmâ€|I got lost." He smiled.

"With your nose? Don't insult my intelligence, Natsu. You could sniff out a needle in a haystack as well as where that nail came from. You could have easily sniffed out the ship. Now tell the truth. Where. Were. You." Weiss' stern stare penetrated made Natsu stand at attention. Once again she had seen through his lies.

"Iâ€|may have missed the airship back homeâ€|on purpose."

"What in the world would possess you to do that?!"

"I hate those things!"

"I don't care! That is no excuse to just leave without telling anyone where you were! We thought you had been abducted or worse! As an heir to the Schnee family, you can't just-"

"I get it! I get it!" Natsu cut her off. He hated hearing about his "duties as a Schnee heir". "I won't do it again."

"Do you promise?"

Natsu sighed. "Yes I promise."

Weiss glared at her brother for a few more moments. Slowly but surely her eyes softened.

"Good. Now, why are you here? Surely not to give me a tearful goodbye." She moved her hands to her hips, a smug smile pulling at the corners of her mouth. "I know it's hard to accept, but I am perfectly capable of taking care of myself. I don't need my big brother to watch over me anymore."

Natsu was confused by his sister's boasting. "Huh? No. I'm a student here now."

Slowly Weiss' smile faded.

"What?!"

* * *

><p>After a somewhat lengthy but eventful conversation about weapons as well as the commonality of motion sickness - Ruby and Jaune finally arrived at the entrance ceremony.</p>

Scattered inside the amphitheater were numerous new students, each of them eager to begin their tenure at Beacon Academy just like they were.

"Ruby, over here!" Yang called from among the gathered students. "I saved you a spot!"

Ruby waved to her sister then turned to Jaune. "Hey, I gotta go. Nice meeting you. I'll see you after the ceremony, ok?" With that she ran off to join Yang.

"Hey!" Jaune called after Ruby, but she was long gone. "Great." He whined. "Where am I going to find a nice, quirky, girl to talk to now?"

"So how's your first day going, little sister?" Yang asked smiled.

Ruby was unamused. "You mean since you ditched me and I exploded?"

"Yikes. Breaking down already?"

"No. I mean I literally exploded a hole in front of the school! There was fire and I think some ice?"

"Are you being sarcastic?"

"No! I wish. I tripped over some crabby girl's luggage and she yelled at me. Then I found out she was Natsu's sister. Then I sneezed. Then I exploded. There was soot everywhere, and she yelled at me again. And I felt really, really bad, and I just wanted her to stop yelling at me and-"

"You!"

Ruby jumped into her sister's arms in fright. Weiss had appeared, apparently she had heard everything Ruby had said about her.

"Oh no! It's happening again!" Ruby cried.

"You're lucky we weren't blown off the side of a cliff." Weiss scolded Ruby.

"Oh my god, you really did explode." Yang said in stunned realization.

"That's what I told you!" Ruby asserted.

Natsu weaved his way through the crowd and stood next to his sister. "Hey, guys, what's up?" he waved to Ruby and Yang.

"Hey, Bubblegum head." Yang greeted.

"I told you my name is Natsu."

"I know." Yang grinned playfully.

"It was an accident I swear!" Ruby pleaded with Weiss. "An accident!" She was placed back on her feet by Yang, only to have the snow-haired heiress shove a pamphlet titled "Dust for Dummies and other Inadequate Individuals" in her face.

"What's this?" Ruby asked.

"The Schnee Dust Company is not responsible for any injuries sustained while operating a Schnee Dust product. Although not mandatory the Schnee Family highly encourages customers to read and familiarize themselves with this easy to follow guide to Dust application and practice in the field."

The words coming from Weiss' mouth were so automatic and quick that Ruby felt like she was listening to the disclaimer at the end of a bad infomercial.

Once again Ruby's only response was "Uh."

"Do you really want to start making things up to me?" Weiss asked with an arched eyebrow.

"Absolutely?" Ruby wasn't really sure, but she would say anything to get this conversation over with.

Weiss once again shoved the pamphlet in Ruby's face, and this time the hooded girl took it.

"Then read this and never speak to me again." Weiss said.

"Lookâ€|" Yang spoke up. "It sounds like you guys just go off on the wrong foot. Why don't you two start over and be friends, ok?"

"Yeah." Natsu agreed. "You don't have to be a jerk, Weiss."

"I'm the jerk?" she gasped in offense at her brother. "You're supposed to be on my side!"

"Great idea, sis!" Ruby chirped. She faced Weiss, extending her hand out with a smile. "Hello, Weiss. I'm Ruby. Wanna hang out? We can go shopping for school supplies."

"Yeah." Weiss flippantly accepted. "And we can paint our nails, and talk about cute boys like tall, dark, and scraggly over there." She pointed her thumb at a confused Jaune who just happened to be standing a few feet away from them.

"Wow really?!" Ruby excitedly asked.

"No." Weiss sternly refused.

Ruby slumped her shoulders in defeat.

The sound of a microphone whining echoed through the noisy room, silencing everyone. All the students looked to the stage, seeing Professor Ozpin Glynda not far behind standing in front of the microphone. He cleared his throat.

"I'll keep this brief." He began. "You have traveled here today in search of knowledge. To hone your craft and acquire new skills, and when you are finished; you plan to dedicate your life to the protection of the people."

Natsu yawned. "This is boring."

"Hush." Weiss hissed.

"When I look amongst you, all I see is wasted energy in need of purpose, direction." Ozpin continued. "You assume knowledge will free you of this, but your time at this school will prove that knowledge can only get you so far. It is up to you to take the first step."

With those ominous and slightly disheartening - words spoken Ozpin moved away from the microphone, allowing Glynda to step forward.

"You will all meet in the ballroom tonight. That is where you will sleep." She informed. "Tomorrow your initiation will officially begin. Be ready. You are dismissed." She followed after Ozpin.

"He seemed kinda off." Yang noted of Ozpin.

"Yeah. It's like he wasn't even there." Ruby nodded.

Natsu stomach started to gurgle. "I'm getting hungry. Where's the cafeteria?" He walked off.

"Natsu, hold on!" Weiss shouted, following after him. "Where are you going?"

"That guy really doesn't stay in one place too long does he?" Yang said.

* * *

><p>Natsu kept a somewhat brisk pace through the courtyard, his

sister running to catch up.<p>

"Don't just up and leave like that." She chided.

"I got hungry." He said.

"We could have easily just had the guards bring us something to eat."

"I'd rather get my own food."

While her brother followed his nose in search of food, Weiss looked around at all of the architecture. The large archways and exquisitely detailed designs on the pillars were very appealing to her eyes.

"Wow." Weiss marveled. "The school is much more elegant than advertised in the brochure."

Natsu hummed in absent agreement. He wasn't paying attention at all.

"What's wrong with you?" Weiss asked. "You're usually much more energetic than this. Are you really that hungry?"

"That Ozpin guy rubs me the wrong way." Natsu stated.

Weiss raised a brow in confusion. "The professor? What do you mean?"

"He knows my name."

"Well of course he does." The heiress waved dismissively. "You're the only male heir to the Schnee family. Nearly everyone knows how you are. I would be more surprised if he didn't."

"No. I mean he knows my **real** name."

This new information succeeded in alarming Weiss. "What? Are you sure?"

Natsu nodded. "He said it the night we met."

"But how is that possible? Your true name is a secret only known to the family."

"I don't know." Natsu answered.

"Does anyone else know?"

Natsu pointed to his temple. "That blonde lady with the glasses."

"Ms. Goodwitch." Weiss corrected.

"Yeah her. Ruby knows too."

"That clumsy dolt from earlier?!"

"She was there when Ozpin said it."

Weiss facepalmed. "Does she know anything else?"

"No."

Weiss sighed in relief. "That's good. That means we have nothing to worry about."

"I really don't see the big deal of hiding it. I like my name."

As they continued down the hall talking about this and that, Natsu - not watching where he was going - accidentally bumped shoulders with someone coming from the other direction.

"Watch we're you're going, Pinky." The student said roughly.

Natsu whipped around, glaring at the young man that brushed past him. "What did you say?"

The young man was about the same age as Natsu, but also slightly taller than him. His silver-gray hair shimmering dimly in the sunlight. He crossed his arms, his silver eyes looking down at Natsu as he smirked with a sense of superiority.

"You heard me, flamingo top." the boy retorted. "Watch we're you're going. Some of us have important places to be."

"Oh yeah? You—"Natsu rolled up sleeve but Weiss stopped him.

"Natsu, calm down. It was an accident."

"What's wrong, tough guy?" Natsu's adversary taunted. "Gonna let your girlfriend fight your battle for you?"

"I am **not** his girlfriend." Weiss quickly found herself getting irritated as well by the boy's attitude. "I'm his sister."

"That's even worse." The young man laughed. He was quickly silenced with a smack to the back of his head. "Ow!"

A girl with dark skin and mint green hair walked in front of him.

"What was that for, Emerald?" he demanded, rubbing the back of his head.

"Please excuse my idiot friend." The girl â€“ now known to the siblings as Emerald â€“ apologized. "He has a nasty habit of annoying people."

"You're one to talk." He grumbled.

"We'll be on our way." She turned the young man around and started pushing him away from Natsu and Weiss. "Sorry for the trouble." she said over her shoulder. "Maybe we'll see you around sometime. We'll buy you food or something in apology."

"Of course." Weiss said. "See you around." She turned to her brother. "You can stop glowering now."

"Not until I give that bastard a beating he won't forget."

"Natsu, it's over. Just let it go. Please try not to get expelled on the first day over something as trivial as someone bumping you in the hallway. The school is huge so chances are we won't see them again anyway."

"I guess so." Natsu relaxed and Weiss let him go.

"Now let's hurry to the cafeteria before it closes. You're still hungry aren't you?" Weiss walked past her brother.

"Yeah." Natsu looked at the backs of Emerald and her friend for a few seconds longer before following after Weiss.

"Mercury, you idiot." Emerald scolded the silver-haired young man. "We're supposed to be keeping a low profile. Not challenging kids to fights."

Mercury interlocked his fingers behind his head, a knowing grin on his lips. "Lighten up some, Emerald. I was only messing with the guy. Besides he wasn't going to do anything anyway. He was all talk."

"Even so just please try and stay out of trouble. The last thing we need is unwanted attention to ourselves."

Mercury playfully saluted his irritated comrade. "Yes ma'am."

Emerald sighed. "Let's just go and meet with Cinder."

* * *

><p>With the moon high in the night sky, all of the students were now gathered in the ballroom as Glynda instructed. As she said this was to be their sleeping quarters for the night.</p>

Even though room was a mix of both boys and girls, no one really seemed all that uncomfortable. Possibly due to the ballroom being so spacious. Some even welcomed this co-ed situation.

"It's like a big slumber party!" Yang flopped on the sleeping bag next to her sister ¯ who was currently writing on a piece of paper.

"I don't think Dad would approve of all the boys though." Ruby said.

"I know I do." Yang replied playfully.

She rolled her tongue, her eyes scanning across the room at all of the shirtless boys. Each one was more cut and fit than the last. Soon her eyes fell on Natsu, who was being scolded by his sister for not bringing an extra set of clothes to sleep in.

"Wow. Bubblegum head is actually pretty hot with his shirt off." Yang noted in surprise.

"Mhm." Ruby agreed, not really listening to her sister.

"What ya writing?"

"A letter to my friends back at Signal. I promised to tell them how things were going."

"That's so cute!" Yang cooed. She got a pillow thrown at her face for her trouble.

"Shut up. I didn't get to bring my friends to school with me. It's weird not knowing anyone here."

"What about that Jaune guy?" Yang looked over to the blonde who was currently trying to flirt with girls in his fleece onesie.

"He's nice. Plus there's bubblegum head-"

"Natsu."

"Whatever. That's two friends already."

"I guess but Natsu's sister totally hates my guts, so I say she counts as a negative friend."

"You still have one in him. Besides there's no such thing as negative friends. You just have two friends and one enemy." Yang received another pillow to the face. "Stop sulking. It's only been one day. Trust me. You've got friends all around you. You just haven't met them yet."

Ruby sat up from her sleeping bag and saw a girl sitting against the wall in front of her. She had long black hair with a black bow tied at the top, her long black night gown slightly pulled up above her ankles as she thumbed through the pages of a book by candlelight. Ruby recognized her almost instantly.

"That girl!"

"You know her?" her sister asked.

"Not really. She kinda helped me out this morning, but she left before I could say anything."

"Well here's your chance!" Yang grabbed her sister's wrist and pulled her along.

"Wait!" Ruby shouted. "What are you doing?"

The black-haired girl heard the commotion and slowly lowered her book, her eyes falling on the two sisters now standing in front of her.

"Hello~." Yang sang with a wave. "I believe you two may know each other?" she pointed to her sister.

The girl looked at Ruby. "Aren't you the girl that exploded?" she asked.

"Uh yeah." Ruby anxiously answered. "My name's Ruby." She extended her hand, but the girl promptly returned to her book, completely ignoring her existence.

"What are you doing?" Yang whispered to her sister.

"I don't know help me." Ruby pleaded.

"So, what's your name?" Yang asked the girl.

She scoffed, her eyes once more lifting from her book.
"Blake."

"Well, Blake, I'm Yang! Ruby's older sister. I like your bow."

"Thanks." Blake said firmly. She was making no attempt to start a conversation with the energetic blonde.

"It goes great with your pajamas."

"Right!" Blake trailed off, her nose once again in her book.

It was clear that this attempt at friendship was failing hard. Yang tried one last time.

"Nice night, huh?"

"Yes. It's lovely." she curtly replied. "Almost as lovely as this book. Which I will continue to read!" she looked at the sisters on last time."As soon as you leave."

Yang officially gave up. "This girl is a lost cause." she told her sister.

"What's it about?" Ruby suddenly asked Blake.

This caught the rough girl's attention. "Huh?"

"Your book." Ruby clarified. "Does it have a name?"

"It's about a man with two souls." Blake explained. Her tone was much warmer with Ruby than it was with Yang. "Each one fighting for control over his body."

"Oh yeah!" Yang said uninterested. "That's real lovely."

"I love books." Ruby smiled. "Yang used to read them to me every night before bed. Stories of monsters and heroes. They're one of the reasons I want to be a Huntress."

"Why?" Blake chuckled. "Hoping you'll live happily ever after?"

"Well yeah. I'm hoping we all will." Ruby said. "When I was a little girl I wanted to be just like those heroes in the books. Fighting for what was right and protecting people who couldn't protect themselves."

"That's very ambitious for a child but unfortunately the real world isn't some fairy tale." Blake's eyes briefly fell to her feet. "It's a much harsher place."

"That's why we're here, isn't it?" Ruby argued. "To make the world a better place?"

This question gave Blake pause.

"I'm so proud of you, baby sister." Yang hugged Ruby and hoisted her into the air, much to her sister's discomfort and annoyance.

"Hey! Cut it out!"

Ruby punched Yang and the sisters began to fight and bicker.

"Ruby. Yang..." Blake said, trying to quiet the two. "It's been a pleasure, but—"

"What is going on here?!" An angered Weiss flounced over to the trio. "Don't you know people are trying to sleep?!" her eyes caught Yang's. Both had the same reaction.

"Not you again!"

"Shh." Ruby shushed the two. "Please stop yelling."

Yang noticed something in Weiss' ears. "Waitâ€|why are you wearing ear plugs?" Her question was soon answered by a loud roar.

"What was that?! Is a Grimm attacking the school?!"

Weiss sighed. "No. That's just my brother." She directed the girls to Natsu. He was sprawled out on both his and Weiss' beds, his mouth wide open as he loudly snored.

"How do you live with that?" Blake asked.

"Years of practice and sleepless nights." Weiss answered.

"Have any more of those ear plugs?" Yang asked Weiss.

"Make that two please." Ruby requested.

Weiss didn't want to share anything with two people she had already decided to hate on the first day of school, but Natsu's snoring was something she wouldn't have wished on her enemy.

Begrudgingly Weiss gave the sisters two pairs of spare earplugs she kept in her night gown pocket. She looked over to Blake - who was still seated against the wall. For some reason she looked in more pain than the others. Weiss grabbed her final spares. She looked at them for a moment, contemplating what to do before sighing and holding out her hand.

"Here." She said, refusing to make eye contact with the girl who had so rudely insulted her family earlier. "I suppose you want some as well."

After a few seconds of contemplation Blake accepted Weiss' offer.
"Thank you." She muttered.

"You're welcome."

Ruby and Yang smiled.

"I don't want to hear a word from either of you." Weiss commanded.

"What?!" Yang yelled. She couldn't hear anything over Natsu's snoring.

"Guys, calm down." Ruby pleaded. "People are trying to sleep remember?"

Blake blew out the candles as the girls bickered; Natsu continuing to snore the night away.

* * *

><p>Thanks to popular demand this will be an ongoing series. Updates as such will be fairly sporadic, but that's usually how it goes. Thanks to all those who said good things and even those who said not so good things. Feedback is always appreciated.

I wasn't going to post this for about another week, but one of my favorite fics by one of my favorite writers ("A Noble Heart's Desire" by Adrian Celsius to be more specific. Guy is a great writer. If you like Fire Emblem you should check his fics out. Ok shout out over) gave me the inspiration to put this one out there. Hopefully you all like it.

**One thing I wanted to mention but didn't really find a place in this chapter for it. Those who follow RWBY know that most of if not all characters have an emblem. Natsu has one too. His is similar to Weiss'. Except that in the middle there is a dragon's head with its mouth open and a flame inside. It's in the same place and is the same color as his Fairy Tail emblem in regular canon. **

With all that being said leave a comment/review letting me know what you think. Thanks for reading! :)

3. A Rocky Initiation

"Finally, we get to hit something!"

"Stop yelling so loud. It's embarrassing."

Having had a rather peaceful night's sleep, Natsu had been ecstatic all morning. Today was initiation day, and he was aiming to become the top Huntsman right out of the gate. His sister on the other hand was much less enthused about the prospect.

"Lighten up, Weiss." Natsu smiled, pulling down his black and gold scaled finger-less gloves over his hands and fastening them. "Beating up Grimm is what we came here for, right?"

"No that is what **you** came to Beacon for...at least I think it is. I came retain our family's good name and stature in the community."

"Is that all you ever think about?"

"Don't start with me, Mr. Brawl-for-all."

"What's wrong with a good brawl?"

"Agh! You sound like dad!" Natsu heard a familiar voice echo in the locker room. He also heard the slam of a locker soon after.

Natsu looked around the corner of his own locker, seeing Ruby talking with her sister just a few feet away.

"Yo! Ruby!" he yelled.

The hooded girl turned her head, her eyes lighting up upon seeing her friend. "Natsu! Hey!"

"Come on, Weiss." Natsu said to his sister, beckoning her to join him.

"I'll pass." She declined. She promptly walked off with her arms crossed, but Natsu didn't really seem to mind. He simply shrugged his shoulders and made his way over to Ruby and Yang on his own.

"What's up?" he greeted.

"Nothing much." Ruby answered with a smile. "Yang is just trying to convince me to 'meet new people' and 'try new things' and blah blah blah."

Natsu raised an eyebrow. "What does any of that have to do with fighting?"

"Exactly! Finally someone understands!"

Yang sighed. "All I'm saying is that you have to think things through a bit more and grow up some, Ruby. What about when we have to form teams?"

Suddenly Ruby's confidence faltered. She looked everywhere but to her sister. "I-I don't knowâ€¦ I'll just be on your teamâ€¦ or something."

Yang didn't seem too keen on this idea. "Or maybe you could be on someone else's teamâ€¦ like Nathan over there."

Natsu narrowed his eyes. "Natsu." he corrected. He could tell from Yang's grin that she was saying his name wrong on purpose.

"You guys look like you're getting along well." she continued.

Ruby put her hands on her hips and bent towards her sister. "My dear sister, Yang. Are you saying you don't want me to be on your team?" Ruby accused with a penetrating stare.

"Wha~t?" Yang waved her hands dismissively. "Of course not. I was just thinking that being on a team with someone new would help you break out of your shell."

"What?! That's ridiculous. Tell her, Natsu!"

"I don't mind if you're on a team with me." He said. "Just don't slow

me down."

"That's not what I meant." Ruby whined.

While Natsu carried on his conversation with Ruby and Yang, his sister was making connections of her own. Weiss was stationed a few lockers down from Ruby, next to a girl with long red hair tied in a pony tail that flowed down to her waist.

She was quite tall — at least compared to Weiss — and her body appeared much more toned than some of the other girls at Beacon. As the heiress spoke to her, the girl was fixing and checking the long black gloves that extended past her elbows before affixing a metal brace over the left sleeve. Once she was done with that, she fastened her bronze gorget around her neck, as well as properly set her metal headpiece. Once all of the clothing was in order — including her shoulder less chest plate and cloth around her hip — she finally took out her weapons from her locker, a sword and a shield.

"So Pyrrha!" Weiss said. "Have you decided whose team you would like to be on? I'm sure a well-known individual such as yourself has had plenty of offers."

The red-haired girl thought of this for a moment. "I'm not sure right now. I was just planning on letting the chips fall where they may."

"Well if you have no other obligations, I was hoping you and I could form a team?"

"That sounds like a wonderful idea." Pyrrha accepted with a smile.

"Great!" Weiss smiled. Perfect! The smartest girl in class teaming with the strongest girl in class! Add in Natsu, and the three of us will be an unstoppable force the likes of which Beacon has never seen! Weiss began to fantasize with a sly look on her face. We'll be popular! We'll be celebrities! We'll get perfect grades! Nothing can come between us!

"You know what else is great?" a slightly nasally voice forced Weiss from her delusions. She turned around, coming face to face with the blonde-haired boy from the entrance ceremony.

"Jaune Arc. Nice to meet you." He introduced himself as suave as he could, his body leaning against the lockers to prevent Weiss from seeing anyone but him, unfortunately this meant that Pyrrha was blocked off.

"You again?" Weiss scoffed.

Pyrrha stepped around Jaune's back and into his line of sight. "Nice to meet you, Jaune."

"Yeah. Yeah." Jaune quickly moved the redhead out of the way, his attention still on the upset heiress. "So, Weiss, couldn't help but overhear your fondness for me the other day." He flexed his non-existent muscles.

"You can't be serious." She facepalmed.

"There's no reason to be embarrassed. Happens to the best of us. I've been hearing a lot about teams lately and I started to think that you and I would make a great one. What do ya say?"

"Actuallyâ€|" Pyrrha interrupted. "I believe that teams are actually comprised of four people so--"

"You don't say." Jaune finally stood face to face with Pyrrha. "Well, hot stuff, play your cards right and you can join the winning team." He boasted.

Weiss forced herself between the two. "Jaune, was it? Do you have any idea who this is?"

"Not at all, snow angel." He replied sweetly.

"This is Pyrrha."

"Hello again." The redhead waved.

"She graduated at the top of her class at Sanctum." Weiss explained.

"Never heard of it." Jaune quickly said.

Weiss gasped but quickly regained her wits. "She won the Mistral tournament four years in a row. She broke the record."

Jaune was still lost. "A what?"

Weiss was starting to lose her patience. She flailed her arms wildly in her anger. "She's on the cover of every Pumpkin Pete's Marshmallow Flakes box!"

Jaune gasped in shock. "That was you?!" he pointed at Pyrrha. "They only do that for star athletes and cartoon characters!"

Pyrrha looked away in embarrassment and smiled. "Yeah. It was pretty cool. Sadly the cereal isn't really good for you."

Weiss re-inserted herself into the conversation. "Now after learning all of this, do you really think someone like you is in a position to be on her team?" Weiss asked Jaune. Since her back was turned, she did not notice the slightly irritated stare that Pyrrha was aiming at her back.

Jaune glumly sulked. "I guess not." He sighed deeply.
"Sorry."

Pyrrha reassured Jaune with a hand on his shoulder. "Actually, Jaune, I think you'd make a great leader."

The boy's spirits instantly renewed. "Oh stop it!" he said playfully.

"Seriously, please stop." Weiss said. "This type of behavior should not be encouraged."

Jaune was in her face again. "Sounds like Pyrrha is onboard for Team

Jaune. Spots are filling up fast. Now normally I wouldn't do this, but just this once I think I can make an exception. Pull some strings and open a spot for you. What do ya say?" He leaned in and Weiss backed away.

"Alright, that is much too close. Pyrrha, a little help please?"

The redhead grabbed her sword and drew back her arm. Her weapon changed into a spear and she lunged forward, throwing it into the hood of Jaune's sweatshirt and pinning him to nearby pillar.

"I'm sorry!" she apologized.

"Nice shot." Natsu complimented. He had just finished talking to Ruby and Yang and decided to see what all the commotion was about.

"Perfect timing!" Weiss grabbed his arm and pulled him in front. "Pyrrha, this is my brother Natsu. Natsu this is Pyrrha Nikos. Remember when we would watch the Mistral tournaments with Father? She's the girl that won four times in a row. She was also the top student at Sanctum."

"It's nice to meet you, Natsu." Pyrrha extended her hand with a smile.

Natsu remembered seeing Pyrrha on the holo-screens back home. He could never forget something like that. She was ferocious on the battlefield. Her skill was unmatched. So much so that no one had ever seen her Semblance during those tournaments.

Some speculated that Pyrrha didn't even have a Semblance, but Natsu knew better. Most powerful Huntsmen and Huntresses had a Semblance and Pyrrha was no exception. For example, Natsu's sisters' semblances were Glyphs with a wide variety of uses either as shields, pulling or pushing objects, or using them as a means of travel. Pyrrha was just so strong that she never had to make use of hers.

Natsu looked down at Pyrrha's hand and then to her face. She seemed nervous for some reason.

Pyrrha's arm was starting to get tired from holding it so long, but she kept her smile as best she could.

"Natsu, what are you doing?" Weiss whispered. "Shake her hand. You're messing this up for us."

Natsu looked back down to Pyrrha's hand. He wondered how hard she could hit. Was a punch from her strong enough to dent the lockers? Was it enough to shatter the pillar behind him? Did she fight with her hands at all?

At last Natsu's gaze trailed upward, his narrowed black eyes meeting Pyrrha's emerald green orbs which slowly widened.

There was this tension between them. A pressure that started at the top of their heads and ended at the tips of their toes. For Natsu it was the excitement of finding a strong opponent|Pyrrha didn't know what she felt.

She struggled to find something to say to make the mood more comfortable. Staring always made her a bit uneasy. "I-is there something wrong?" she anxiously asked.

Natsu's grin was animalistic. His voice clear and frim when he answered.

"I'm going to kick your ass."

Natsu's declaration shocked both Pyrrha and Weiss. The former quickly withdrew her hand, now even more confused on how to proceed or what to say. Weiss was speechless. She didn't know whether to be surprised at her brother's vulgar language, or angry that he just ruined her chance with Pyrrha.

"I'm sorry?" was the startled redhead's only reply.

"Have you lost your mind?!" Weiss shouted at her brother.

Natsu remained silent, his eyes still focused on Pyrrha. Just then the intercom sounded.

"All first year students please report to Beacon Cliff for initiation. Again, will all first year students please report to Beacon cliff for initiation? Thank you."

"Come on. If we don't hurry we'll be late." Weiss grabbed Natsu by the ear pulled him out of the locker room, muttering irritably along the way.

"Ow! Ow! Ow~!" Natsu yelped. "Let go, Weiss! You'll tear my ear off!"

"What was that about?" Yang asked her sister as they watched the siblings exit the locker room.

"Don't know." Ruby shurgged. "Maybe Natsu and that Pyrrha girl have some kind of history."

"Umâ€|Help?" Jaune weakly called, still stuck to the pillar.
"Someone?"

Pyrrha was finally shaken from her stunned silence by Jaune's pleas. She walked over to the pillar, pulling her spear from his hood to free him.

"I-it was nice meeting you." She said absently.

"Likewiseâ€|" Jaune replied, slowly sliding to the ground.

Pyrrha didn't hear Jaune's words. Her mind was still on Natsu.

* * *

><p>Professor Ozpin paced in front of all the students standing near the edge of Beacon cliffs. Each of them stood on a metal platform, the significance of which would be explained to them shortly.</p>

"For years you have trained to become warriors." He said. "And today,

your abilities will be evaluated in the Emerald forest." He directed their eyes to the expansive forest just below the cliff. Tress stretched as far as the eye could see. It seemed like it went on forever.

"Now I'm sure that many of you have heard rumors about the assignment of teams." Glynda said to the students next. "So let us put an end to your confusion right now. Each of you will be given teammatesâ€|today."

"Huh?" Ruby muttered worriedly.

Ozpin spoke again. "These teammates will be with you during the rest of your tenure here at Beacon. So it would be in your best interest to pair with someone you can work well with."

Ruby whimpered again.

"That being said. The first person you make eye contact with after you landâ€|will be your partner for the next four years."

"What?!" she exclaimed.

Just like that Ruby's world shattered. She was completely prepared to go through school alone â€" or at least with her sister â€" but now things were completely different. Chances were good that she would have to be paired with a stranger for the rest of her high school life.

"See?" a girl with pink hair explained to the young man to her right. The two had spoken about the possibility of being on a team earlier in the locker room. "I told you, Ren."

"Yes you did, Nora." The young man sighed.

"After all of you find your partners..." Ozpin continued. "You will make your way to the northern end of the forest. Remember, this area is wrought with peril. So do not hesitate to destroy anything in your pathâ€|or you will die."

Natsu punched his fist into his palm. "Now you're talking." He said eagerly.

"If we get separated find me, ok?" Weiss instructed.

"Yeah. Yeah. I got it."

Pyrrha glanced at Natsu for a brief moment before facing forward again.

Jaune laughed weakly, swallowing the lump in his throat.

"You will be monitored and graded for the duration of your initiation." Ozpin said. "But our instructors will not intervene on your behalf. At the end of the path you will find an abandoned temple containing several relics. Each pair will grab one and return to the top of the cliff. You will guard that item, as well as your standing, and we grade you appropriately."

"Come on, let's get on with it already!" Natsu complained. "I wanna

fight!"

"Natsu, hush!" Weiss hissed.

"Are there any questions?" Ozpin asked.

Natsu raised his hand. "Yeah. Are you done yapping so we can start?"

"Natsu!" Weiss shrieked again. "Please excuse my brother, Professor Ozpin." she bowed. "He's not one for patience...or manners."

"Hey!"

Glynda sighed.

Blake remained silent.

Yang giggled. "He's kind of an idiot isn't he?"

"I think it's kind of cool." Ruby defended. "I wanna get started too."

Ozpin grinned at Natsu. "Yes, Mr. Schnee. I am done 'yapping'. Let's begin."

Juane raised. "Actually, sir, I have a question-

"Take your positions." Ozpin instructed, completely ignoring the blonde. All of the students readied themselves for what lied ahead, with the exception of Jaune â€" whose hand was still half-raised.

"Sir, I have a question." he repeated.

Suddenly Weiss was launched into the air by the platform she stood on.

"So this landing strategy thingâ€|are you, like, dropping us off or something?"

Next person taking flight was Natsu.

"No." Ozpin answered, taking a sip of his coffee. "You will be falling."

Blake was next to fly, followed by Pyrrha.

"I seeâ€|" Jaune replied unsteadily. "So did you prepare parachutes for us or something?" he tried to block out the sounds of people being flung through the air.

"No. You will be using your own landing strategy." Ozpin answered calmly.

Nora and Ren were launched next, the former letting out a squeal of glee.

Yang winked at her sister before putting on a pair of sunglasses.

"See ya on the other side, sis." With that she was launched.

Ruby grinned at Jaune before taking flight. He was the last one left on the cliff.

"So, what is a landing strategy~!" before Jaune could properly finish his sentence he was shot into the air.

Ozpin looked to his soaring students. He took another sip of coffee.
"Let's see how well they will do, shall we?"

"Yes, sir."

He stood on the edge of the cliff sipping his coffee, Glynda by his side as Jaune's frightened cries echoed in the air.

* * *

><p>All around students were using various means to safely land themselves on the ground.</p>

Weiss used platforms created out of her glyphs to safely make her descent. Ren loosed his Stormflower pistols from the sleeves of his tailcoat, using the sickles attached to the weapon to stick to a tree and spiral down its trunk. Yang boosted through the air with her Ember Celica gauntlets. Falling into the canopy of tree, she braced herself for impact. Rolling when she reached the ground.

Pyrrha held her shield in front of her as she fell through the canopy of several trees. She then landed on a branch of another tree, quickly changing her spear into its rifle configuration. She looked through scope for any other students, her eyes happening to catch a flailing Jaune still screaming through the air. She changed her weapon back to a spear. Carefully checking the distance and wind resistance, Pyrrha cast her weapon through the sky, rounds propelling it faster as it caught Jaune by his jacket hood and stuck him to a tree.

"Thank you!" his voice called.

Pyrrha smiled and jumped down from the tree.

Ruby changed her Crescent Rose into it's rifle mode, firing off shot after shot in front of herself to slow her momentum. When she was close enough to a tree, she changed Crescent Rose back into a scythe.

Turning her body upright against the force of the wind, Ruby managed to catch Crescent Rose's blade on the one of the trees branches. Using her momentum to swing around around the branch once, she let go. Launching herself further forward. When she finally landed on the ground, she let her body settle from the force of gravity before taking off in a run.

Gotta find Yang! She frantically thought. _Gotta find Yang! Gotta find Yang!_

"Yang!" Ruby cried out as she raced through the forest. "Ya~ng!"

She received no answer.

This is bad. This is really bad! _What if I can't find her? Or worse what if someone else finds her first? Who would I partner with then?!_ Ruby began to think of alternatives.

There's always Jaune. He's nice, and he's funnyâ€|_Ruby's smile started to fade. _I don't think he's very good in a fight though._ Soon another person popped into her head.

What about Blake? So mysterious. So calm. Plus she likes reading! I like reading! Ruby's smile once again wavered when she remembered their non-talk yesterday. _Then again I don't think I could hold a conversation with her._

What about Natsu?! I know he can hold his own in a fight! He's also really nice! And He's cool...and a bit weird. Suddenly Ruby thought of Weiss - more accuratley she remember the heiress' scowl. _I bet he's partnered with his sister already. Think, Ruby! Who do you know at this school so far?_ Y_ang, Jaune, Blake, Natsu, andâ€_|_

"Natsu~?! Natsu, where are you?!" After no one answered, Weiss placed her hands on her hips and stopped walking. "Don't tell me we got separated this far apart already. I have to find him before someone else does. Natsu~?!"

Weiss heard the dirt behind her kick up and she turned around, just in time to see Ruby slide to a halt. The girls' eyes met. They both knew what this encounter meant, but they both had wildly different reactions.

Ruby's eyes went wide, her stare a mix of apprehension, optimism, and gratefulness. Weiss' eyes narrowed in a mix of irritation, apathy, and frustration. The pair looked at one another for a few seconds before Weiss promptly turned on her heel and walked away, choosing to resume her search for her brother.

"Wait!" Ruby called. "Where are you going?!"

Weiss ignored the young girl and walked through some shrubbery, leaving Ruby all alone.

The hooded looked to her feet sadly, kicking around the dirt in a fit of disappointment. "We're supposed to be teammates." She muttered.

"Ow." Weiss winced, almost falling over and scratching her leg on one of the branches of the bushes she walked through. She let out an irritated sigh, wiping away the excess leaves from her bolero sleeve. _There is no way I am partnering with that girl. Nowâ€|where is Natsu? _Hearing someone grunting and fidgeting Weiss looked up.

High in the tree in front of her was Jaune, struggling to free his hood from what appeared to be Pyrrha's spear. Oddly enough the red-haired warrior was nowhere in sight.

Jaune stopped squirming when he noticed Weiss looking up at him. He meekly waved to her in a attempt to solicit her help, but she turned his back to him; going back the way she came without uttering so much as a word.

"Wait!" Jaune called.

Weiss met back up with Ruby who standing in the same spot - and grabbed her by the hood. "By no means does this make us friends." She stated as she dragged the now excited girl behind her.

"You came back!" Ruby exclaimed happily, throwing her hands in the air.

Jaune panicked as he watched the two move further and further away from him.

"Hey! Come back!" he pleaded. "Who's gonna get me down from here?!"

Soon Weiss and Ruby were gone, leaving Jaune all by himself.

"Great." He sighed. "Just great.

* * *

><p>Natsu soared though the sky, shouting with joy as the wind hit his face. "Yea~h!" The further he went flew, the more the forest grew beneath him. He would be hitting the ground soon.</p>

"Time to make a landing."

Natsu clenched his fists tightly and his black gloves changed into black and gold gauntlets that stretched up his forearms. He pointed his arms in front - triggers fitting into his hands - shooting out rounds of dust that slowed his drop into the forest. Unfortunately he waited too long to prepare a landing.

"Crap! Crap! Crap! Cra~p!"

Bracing himself for impact, Natsu barreled through several trees at full force before eventually planting back first into the side of a large rock. His body left an impression in the stone.

"Ow.." he groaned slowly sliding down the rock to the ground. He landed upside down, but quickly turned himself upright. "Could have timed that a little better." he said.

He massaged the back of his neck, his eyes surveying the area of the forest he landed in.

"Where am I?" he asked himself. He raised his nose in the air and started to sniff. "I don't smell Weiss. She's probably too far away." He stood up and started to walk around, his nose still in the air. "Can't smell Ruby or her sister either. Where is everyone? Did I get lost already? Aw man! At this rate I'll fail!"

Natsu entered a clearing, his nose finally picking up the scent of someone familiar. "This smellâ€!" his eyes widened. "It's that black haired chick from yesterday! Maybe she can help me find the others!" Natsu started to move in the direction of Blake, but a rustling of shrubs stopped him in his tracks. He readied his weapons.

A Grimm? No it's way too small. Doesn't smell like one either.
Smells human. It smells like.... Natsu lowered his gauntlets, and saw a head of red hair poke out of the bushes. It was Pyrrha.

She looked left and right. "Strange. I'm sure I threw it in this direction." She said to herself. She stepped out of the bushes and into the clearing. "I should keep moving forward. Hopefully I can reach Jaune before any Grimm-"

"Hey." Natsu called.

Pyrrha looked forward. When she finally noticed Natsu had been there the entire time, she froze. Her eyes wide. I wasn't expecting to find **this** person.

Natsu smiled wide at Pyrrha. "You're the first person I've seen so far." He said. "Guess that makes us partners."

Pyrrha slowly nodded, trying to compose herself as best she could.
"Y-yes. I suppose it does."

* * *

><p>Next chapter is done and in the books!

**Surprised I got this up as quickly as I did. Guess I was just on a roll. **

As you can see this is the start of the story slowly shifting away from canon. Hopefully you all will like the changes.

As always leave a comment/review letting me know what you think and thanks for reading!

4. Temple Run

Honestly, how hard is it to find a boy with bright pink hair in the forest? Weiss wondered irritably as she walked through the forest. Her pace was brisk and deliberate, which made it difficult for her "partner" to keep up.

"What's the hurry?!" Ruby shouted, finally catching up to the annoyed heiress.

"I will not let your sluggishness be what makes me fail this course." Weiss retorted. "I swear if I get a bad grade because of you I-"

In a haze of what looked to be rose petals, Ruby appeared in front of Weiss. The sudden movement almost gave the snow-haired girl a heart attack.

"Wha-what in theâ€¦how did you-?"

"See." Ruby pointed her thumb at herself, beaming with pride. "You don't have to worry about me slowing you down, Weiss."

Weiss looked behind herself again. "When did you-"

"Just because I don't know how to deal with people doesn't mean I don't know how to deal with monsters." Ruby stated.

Weiss crossed her arms in a showing of doubt but Ruby leaned over and pulled her in.

"You're going to see a whole different side of me today." Ruby proclaimed. "And when it's all said and done you're going to be like: 'Wow. That Ruby girl is really, really coolâ€¦and I want to be her friend.' "

Before Weiss could voice her opinion, Ruby whooshed away again.

The heiress batted away petals left by Ruby away from her head. "You may be fast, but you still excel at wasting time!" she called out. Soon an uneasy quiet settled around Weiss. "Ruby?" she called, but received no audible answer. She was all alone now. All that she heard were the sounds of the bushes and leaves rustling.

"Ruby?!"

The rustling got louder and closer, but there was still no sign of hooded girl. Fear starting to set in, Weiss called out the only other name she knew. "Natsu? Is that you?"

Hearing the growl of something not human, Weiss quickly got on guard. In the bushes around her she could see red lights. Each one getting closer and growing brighter. She heard a twig snap behind her and turned around, her eyes meeting with the white mask and of a Beowolf.

* * *

><p>"Hello~?! Anybody out there?! Hello~?! I'm starting to get bored here."</p>

In another area of the forest, Yang Xiao Long walked through the thick mists in search of any signs of intelligent life. Suffice to say her search had turned up nothing in the past thirty minutes. Stopping for a moment, Yang took in her surroundings in an attempt to get a feel for where she was.

"This sucks." She sighed.

Hearing a bush rustling she quickly turned in the direction of the sound.

"Someone there?"

She walked to the bushes, slowly peeking through them to see what made the sound on the other side. Thinking it was her sister playing a joke, Yang called out to her.

"Ruby, is that you?"

Hearing a low guttural roar, Yang's eyes trailed upward to something that was indeed not her sister.

"N~ope."

Yang dove to the left, narrowly avoiding the swiping claws of an Urs Minor. Yang readied her Ember Celica just in time to avoid another Urs Minor lunging for her from out of the bush she had rolled in front of.

The first Urs dashed forward to attack again, but this time Yang was prepared.

She drew back her fist, her Ember Celica firing off a round as she plunged her fist into the creature's exposed stomach. She knocked it flat on its back. The other Urs took its shot next.

Yang ducked under the beast's claws and answered with an uppercut, raising them both into the air. In one fluid motion she fired her Ember Celica again, the force turning her body so she could kick the monster in the chest; sending it rolling backwards onto its stomach.

"You guys haven't seen a girl with a red hood anywhere have you?" Yang playfully asked.

The Ursai rose from the ground and roared in the blonde's face.

"Geez. You could have just said no."

One of the Urs charged again, this time standing on its hind legs as it slashed its claws at the flippant blonde. Yang ducked under the first swipe. When the Urs swung downward Yang pushed off her feet and did a back handspring. Satisfied by her ability to avoid being slashed in two, the girl laughed at the Ursai.

"Wow. You guys couldn't hit the broad side of aâ€| " Yang trailed off when a strand of her hair floated in front of her face. She watched in horror as it touched the ground.

Slowly her upbeat demeanor faded, giving way to an anger that confused the Ursai.

"Youâ€|" she snarled. Yang looked to the beasts, her eyes glowing as red as theirs. "You monster!" Yang raced forward, attacking the Urs that cut her precious hair with a fury of blows. Round after round fired from her Ember Celica, her punches and kicks moving and faster by the second. With one final punch she annihilated the Urs, sending it barreling through a group of trees in a violent trail of fire.

The other Urs charged, but when Yang â€" eyes still red â€" glared at the beast, it stopped in its tracks.

"You want some too?!" She challenged. "Come on!"

The lone Urs prepared to strike when suddenly, there was a sound of the air being cut. The beast stood still for a moment before falling onto its stomach. Dead.

Yang looked past the fallen beast and saw Blake, holding in her hand a black ribbon that was wrapped around the hilt of the blade stuck in the creature's back.

The bow-wearing girl tugged on the ribbon, the blade easily slipping out of the Ursas back and into the air. Blake effortlessly caught the hilt in her hand on the way down.

She sheathed her weapon in the scabbard on her back, smirking at Yang as if to say: "You're welcome."

Yang - unfazed by this - shrugged her shoulders. "I could have taken him."

* * *

><p>"We should be getting close by now."</p>

Natsu stepped through the shrubs, holding them open so Pyrrha could follow.

"Thank you." She said after passing by him.

After a rather awkward meeting from the redhead's perspective, Natsu and Pyrrha were on a journey to find Juane.

Pyrrha was hesitant to ask Natsu for his help at first, but after explaining the situation, she was pleasantly surprised at how eager the pinkette was to help. Following a somewhat uncomfortable moment where Natsu had to sniff Pyrrha to get the scent of her weapon, the two unlikely partners were on their way. Natsu naturally leading the excursion because of his nose.

The trip was a relatively silent one, the only words exchanged between the two since they met being the explanation of their mission, as well as quick thank you when one helped the other along the path in some way.

Pyrrha was rightfully uneasy with following behind Natsu. Her mind was still reeling from what he said to her before the exam.

He is completely different than he was before. She thought. _Did I imagine what he said to me?_ Pyrrha recalled their meeting in the locker room.

_ "I'm going to kick your ass." _

The words were as clear as day. _No. I definitely did not imagine that. So why is he so calm and nice now?_

"Don't worry. We're not lost."

Natsu's sudden words brought Pyrrha out of her head.

"I-I'm sorry?"

"That's what you've been wondering isn't it? That we're lost?" Natsu moved more branches out of the way. "It's ok. I've got the best nose a non-Faunus could have. We're almost there."

"O-oh. That's good." Pyrrha nodded. "But that's not what I was thinking about. Something has been on my mind. A question."

"Shoot."

"Wellâ€|I've been meaning to askâ€|have I offended you in some way that I am not aware of?"

"No? At least I don't think so. Why do you ask?"

"It's just that back in the locker room, when I attempted to shake your hand, you said that you were going toâ€|" Pyrrha cleared her throat so she could speak more clearly. "You said that you were going to kick myâ€|'butt'."

Natsu suddenly started to laugh, confusing the redhead.

"Did I say something funny?"

Natsu stopped and turned around, wiping a tear from his eye as he settled down. "No. You didn't say anything funny."

"Then why are you laughing?"

"I just remembered I said that."

Pyrrha's eyes widened. "You just remembered?" she repeated in shock. "You said it less than an hour ago."

"Sorry. That happens sometimes. When I meet someone strong I just blurt out the first thing that pops into my head." He scratched the back of his head in embarrassment.

"That's a rather rude way to introduce yourself to someone." Pyrrha said.

"I know. Weiss said the same thing, but I can't help it. I hope I didn't make you mad or anything."

"No. You didn't offend me. It was just caught off-guard. No one's ever been thatâ€|blunt with me before."

"Soâ€|you wanna do it?"

"Do what?"

"Fight me."

"I hardly think now is the time to be battling. Especially while we're in the middle of searching for someone who could be in danger."

"Not now. Later. When this initiation thing is done."

Pyrrha looked at Natsu straight on. He was practically bouncing up and down at the prospect of fighting her. It was a bit odd. She had never seen someone so eager to fight with her. After so many victories in the Mistral tournament, Pyrrha had gained the unwanted reputation of being a person that was hard to approach. No matter where she went people always shirked back as if she had the plague. They viewed themselves as lower than her. It was frustrating.

Natsu, however, was different. He knew full well who Pyrrha Nikos

was, but he wasn't afraid. He didn't view her as better than him. In fact he found her reputation all the more enticing. The look in his eyes oozed confidence. He didn't care about her esteem at all. If anything he thought beating her would knock her down a peg or two.

"Iâ€œ|I don't usually engage in non-sanctioned battles." Pyrrha said quickly, unable to meet Natsu's gaze.

Natsu's shoulders slumped, his confidence fading into disappointment.
"Really?"

Pyrrha nodded. "I'm sorry."

"Fine." Natsu sighed in acceptance. "I can't force ya to fight me. Sucks though. I think it would have been pretty fun." He started moving through the bushes again, Pyrrha following behind.

"Did you only partner with me because you wanted to fight?"

"No I partnered with you because you were the first person I saw. Those were the rules the old guy said right?"

"Oh yes. Those were the rules."

"Besidesâ€œ|I was thinking we could be friends."

Pyrrha's eyes widened. "F-friends? You wish to be friendsâ€œ|with me?"

"Yeah. Why wouldn't I? You seem like a pretty nice person, and my sister likes you â€œ which is actually kind of impressive since she barely likes anybody. Alsoâ€œ|" Natsu looked over his shoulder at Pyrrha and smiled wide. "We're partners, right? Can't be good partners without being friends first."

Pyrrha was speechless. Her cheeks turned red. "Iâ€œ|I-"

"We're here."

Pyrrha quickly the stars out of her eyes and stood next to Natsu â€œ albeit at a manageable distance.

In front of the pair was a large tree.

"Is this where Jaune was?" Pyrrha asked.

"Yeah this is where the scent ends. If your spear did catch him he would have been stuck to this tree."

"Then where is he?" Pyrrha looked around the area. "Do you think he found some way to free himself?"

"Maybe." Natsu's eyes caught something on the bark of the tree. "I see something."

"What is it?"

Natsu scaled the tree with impressive speed. He felt the bark, his fingers rubbing along the three deep indentations.

"Claw marks."

"Claws?!" Pyrrha gasped. "That must mean a Grimm found him!"

Natsu jumped down from the tree. "Yeah. That's what I was thinking."

"I should have found him sooner!" Pyrrha cursed herself. "If I had then he-"

"Hey, don't beat yourself up." Natsu said, putting his hands on Pyrrha's arms. "We'll find him."

"But how? We have no idea where he was taken."

Natsu grinned and tapped the side of his nose. "I got this remember? I'll find him in no time."

"Of course." Pyrrha smiled. "Thank you, Natsu. I lost sight of myself for a second."

"No worries, partner. Now let's find Jaune."

"Right!"

The two searched the ground, looking for anything that might have belonged to the blonde. Pyrrha found a shield not far from the tree.

"Natsu, I found something!"

She held the weapon to him.

"Awesome! Let me see." Natsu sniffed around the shield. He then closed his eyes, lifted his nose into the air, and sniffed again.

"Well? Do you smell anything?"

Natsu's nose twitched and he opened his eyes. He looked past the tree and pointed.

"That way. Smell's still pretty strong. That means he wasn't nabbed too long ago."

"Then we should hurry." Pyrrha advised.

"Yeah. Let's go."

* * *

><p>Weiss slid back on her heels, coming to a full stop a few meters away from the Beowolf that attacked. She slowly stood up, her Myrtenaster rapier in hand as she took stock of her surroundings. She was surrounded by Beowolves — six at her last count. Unaframed of the monster's snarling at her, the dignified heiress readied herself for battle.</p>

_Remember your training, Weiss. Head up. Shoulders back. Right foot

forward._

She slid her foot back a couple of centimeters.

Not that forward. Her eyes narrowed. _Slow your breathing. Wait for the right time to strike. Andâ€¢_

She held her blade close, the rotating of the dust cartridges sounding in her ears. When it stopped she was ready.

Now!

Weiss sped forward, prepared to strike down the Beowolf ahead of her until Ruby suddenly reappeared.

"Gotcha!" the hooded girl announced, cutting into the beast with the blade of Crescent Rose.

Her concentration broken, Weiss lost her balance and stumbled forward. She cut her weapon away from Ruby, creating a trail of fire that scorched a nearby tree.

"Huh?"

Ruby heard the noise and looked to Weiss, allowing the Beowolf to counterattack. It swiped at her, Ruby barely managing to block with Crescent Rose as she was sent flying back into Weiss.

"Hey, watch it!" she sniped at the heiress.

"Excuse me? You attacked out of turn. I could have killed you."

"You'll have to try harder than that." Ruby muttered under her breath.

The two stood back to back as more Beowolves arrived. The situation was growing worse by the second. Ruby reloaded Crescent Rose's chamber and prepared to attack, but was stopped by Weiss when an ignited tree fell near them.

"We have to go."

The heiress grabbed her reluctant partner and pulled her away. The Beowolves also escaped into the forest, frightened by the growing flames.

The two students managed to escape the beasts, briefly stopping at the top of a hill to catch their breath.

"What was that?!" Ruby demanded, pointing at the rising smoke in the distance. "That fight should have been easy!"

"Perhaps if you had exercised even the slightest bit of caution with the placement of your strikes, then perhaps I wouldn't have set the forest on fire!" Weiss retorted. "I swear you're worse than my brother."

"What's that supposed to mean?"

"It mean that I find it amazing that someone who talks so much, could communicate so little during a fight!"

"Well I'm sorry that you need my help to take down a few mangy Beowolves. I'm just fine on my own."

"Well then congratulations on being the strongest child to sneak your way into Beacon." Weiss " fully fed up with this conversation " started to walk off. "Bravo."

In her anger, Ruby cut down a tree, a large black feather slowly falling to the ground as she followed the heiress.

* * *

><p>"Please, Mr. Beowolf, you really don't wanna eat me. Honest. I'm really stringy and gamey. I also sweat a lot. That ruins the meat, you know. You don't want something like that to eat do you?" Jaune looked to the two other Beowolves. "Come on, guys. Help me out here."</p>

The first Beowolf roared in Jaune's face.

"Y-you're right. My bad." He quickly apologized. He hunched his body over the monster's shoulder as it carried him to parts unknown.

Is this really how it ends me? Jaune wondered. _I haven't even been in Beacon a week and I'm going to get eaten by a gang of Beowolves. That has to be some kind of school record. So much for living up to the Arc name..._

"Jaune!" he heard a voice call.

The blonde looked up. His eyes widening when he saw a redhead and a young man with pink hair running towards him.

"Pyrrha, is that you?! Help!" He frantically waved his arms around.

"Hold on! We'll save you!"

"Look!" Natsu pointed at the spear in the hand of the Beowolf holding Jaune. "Is that your weapon?"

"Yes!" Pyrrha nodded. "I have an idea. You go on ahead and rescue Jaune."

"Ok!"

Natsu continued to race forward as Pyrrha slowed down.

Coming to a full stop, she held out her hand. Her spear started to wiggle in the monster's claws before forcing itself out and zooming back to its rightful owner.

Natsu jumped into a tree and watched the spear return to Pyrrha. _That have to do with her Semblance?_ _I want to fight her even more now._ He looked back to the trio of Beowolves. _But first things first._

Natsu leapt from the tree as soon as the first Beowolf turned around, his gauntlets forming over his hands. Falling through the air at a fantastic speed, Natsu's fist landed square on the creature's face. Forcing it to let go of Jaune as it was sent flying through the nearest tree.

Natsu caught Jaune as he fell.

"Thanks." The blonde said in gratitude. "I thought I was done for sure."

Natsu lifted Jaune into the air.

"W-what are you doing?"

"Pyrrha! Catch!" Natsu shouted.

"Wait!"

Natsu slung a screaming Jaune to his partner, the redhead catching him in her arms with little difficulty.

"Are you alright?" she asked the dizzied blonde.

"Yeahâ€| just greatâ€|" Jaune replied weakly. "Thanks for askingâ€|"

"Now..." Natsu slammed his fists together, flames briefly firing out from his gauntlets. "On to you guys." He grinned cockily at the roaring Beowolves. "Bring it."

The second Beowolf leapt forward and took a swing, but Natsu ducked. Forcing his head upward, Natsu hitting the beast under the chin.

While the monster was off-balance, Natsu punched its chest. The impact created a shockwave that came out of the creature's back, sending it flying back.

"Whoa." Jaune gasped.

Pyrrha nodded. I've never seen someone hit that hard.

The third Beowolf lunged at Natsu but this time the pinkette sidestepped, allowing the creature's arm to barely miss him. Natsu grabbed the monster's claw and hefted it into the air â€“ once again shocking Jaune and Pyrrha.

"Man, you're heavy!" Natsu said as the Beowolf flailed around in the air. "Down you go!" he threw the beast, its body colliding with the second Beowolf that was just starting to stir. "That all you got?!" Natsu taunted.

The Beowolves slowly rose up from the ground, their angered roars echoing in the air. Jaune and Pyrrha covered their ears from the harsh sound but Natsu stood unimpeded.

"That's more like it." He smirked. "Come on!"

The Beowolves sprinted forward, as did Natsu. He held out his hands

to his sides, his gauntlets forming into claws over his hands. He swiftly cut through the monsters, leaving his claw marks in their bodies.

The monsters stood still for a few more seconds before falling over dead, their bodies emitting smoke.

Natsu turned to face the fallen creatures. A disgruntled look on his face. "I thought they would have put up a better fight than that." He grumbled with a pout. "Are there any more around here?"

Giving up his search Natsu shrugged his shoulders and walked to Jaune and Pyrrha. "Guess it's time to go."

Suddenly the first Beowolf burst forth from the rubble, heading straight for an unsuspecting Natsu.

"Look out!" Jaune shouted.

Natsu turned around just as the Beowolf prepared to strike when a gunshot went off. The bullet hit the creature right between the eyes, causing it to fall over. Finally dead.

Natsu turned and saw Pyrrha standing with her rifle pointed towards him, smoke rising from the barrel. He smiled wide and gave her a thumbs up.

"Nice shot, partner!"

Pyrrha smiled softly, returning his thumbs up with one of her own.

* * *

><p>"It seems our last pair has been formed, sir."</p>

Glynda walked to Professor Ozpin as he sipped his coffee on the edge of Beacon Cliff. She showed him the screens on her tablet. Each one showed a different group of students.

"Nora Valkyrie and Lie Ren. Poor boy. I can't imagine those two getting along in the least." Glynda directed Ozpin's eyes to the screen depicting a young man with long black hair tied in a low ponytail, and a light pink streak. He was looking at a girl with short orange hair as she hung upside down from a tree. For some reason she chirped like a bird and poked the young man's nose. Despite Glynda's words the two seemed to enjoy one another's company.

"Stillâ€|" Glynda clicked over to another feed, this one of Pyrrha, Natsu, and Jaune. "He's faring better than Miss Nikos."

"Hm?" Ozpin uttered. He was now slightly interested in what she was saying.

"I don't care what his transcripts say, that Jaune fellow is not ready for this level of combat. And that Natsu Schnee or Dragneel or whatever his name is is no better. While I will admit he is more than capable of handling himself in a fight, it still baffles me that you let him in the school without so much as one passing grade from his previous institution."

By now Ozpin had tuned out.

"I guess we'll find out soon enough." Glynda started to walk back to the school. "At their current pace they should reach the temple in a matter of minutes. Speaking of whichâ€|" Glynda stopped walking and looked over her shoulder to Ozpin. "What did you use for relics this year?"

The professor remained silent.

"Professor Ozpin?" she called.

Ozpin again ignored Glynda, looking at his own tablet feeds. He watched Natsu's trio for a moment before switching over to Ruby and Weiss.

* * *

><p>"It's this way. No its way. On second thought it's definitely this way."</p>

Ruby sat on the ground with her legs crossed, pulling out grass and messing with leaves out of boredom as Weiss paced back and forth. They had been lost for over twenty minutes. Ruby was starting to lose patience.

Finally Weiss stopped wandering and stood in front of Ruby.

"It's official." She said. "We passed it."

At this Ruby chose to stand up.

"Why can't you just admit that you're lost?"

"Because I am not lost." The heiress retorted. "I know exactly where we're going." In truth Weiss had no idea where they were going. At times like these she wished she had her brother's sense of smell.

"Then where are we going?" Ruby inquired.

"Easy. We're going toâ€|the forest temple."

Ruby groaned.

"Oh stop. You don't know where we're going either." Weiss said.

"At least I don't act like I know everything!"

"And what is that supposed to mean?"

"It means you're a big, stupid, jerk and I hate you." Ruby fumed.

Now it was Weiss' turn to groan. She turned her back to Ruby and walked away.

"Just keep moving." She ordered.

"Oh just keep moving. Hurry up. Watch we're you're going." Ruby mocked. "Why are you so bossy?!"

Weiss turned around. "How dare you? I am not bossy. Don't say things like that."

"Then stop treating me like a kid!"

"I will the moment you stop acting like one!"

"Stop acting like you're perfect!"

"I'm. Not. Perfect! At least not yet, but I'm still leagues better than you." Weiss began to walk away. "Hurry up. Once we meet up with my brother and the others...this partnership is done."

"You don't even know me!" Ruby said sadly.

* * *

><p>Yang and Blake emerged from the trees and came upon a cliff. The pair saw what appeared to be an altar with small pillars housing some sort of artifacts below.<p>

"Think this is it?" Yang asked her silent partner.

Blake jumped down from the cliff.

"Guess so."

Yang followed Blake onto the ruins. Upon closer inspection the items on the pillars were chess pieces. The ones to the right were black, while those on the left were gold.

Blake was confused.

"Looks like some of them are missing." Yang noted. "Guess we weren't the first ones here."

"Well I guess we should pick one then." Blake suggested.

Yang walked over to the gold knight piece and picked it up. "How about a cute little pony?"

Blake grinned. "Sure."

The two met in the middle of the temple.

"That was easy." Yang smiled.

"Well it's not like this place was hard to find."

* * *

><p>Explosions fired off in the distance.<p>

"You hear that?"

"Gunfire. It seems that some of our comrades have encountered the enemy."

"I wish we encountered some more of them. I'm already bored."

Natsu, Pyrrha, and Jaune continued to travel through the forest in search of the temple.

"Are you sure we're going the right way?" Jaune asked Natsu.

"I've got this whole forest figured out. The place we're supposed to be is around hereâ€|somewhere." He answered.

"That doesn't sound very reassuring." Pyrrha said.

"Just trust me. I know where we're going."

"I almost forgot. Thanks for saving me earlier, you guys. I thought I was gonna be Grimm food." Jaune spoke up.

"Don't mention it." Natsu waved dismissively. "I was just helping a friend in danger."

"Friend?" Jaune repeated. "We're friends?"

"Yeah. We're motion sickness buddies. You don't go through something like that without making friends with the person."

Jaune's face fell. "Can we not mention thatâ€|ever again? Please?"

Pyrrha was confused.

"That aside. You were pretty awesome back there." Jaune complimented. "I've never seen anyone beat Grimm so fast."

Natsu beamed with pride, rubbing his finger under his nose. "Yeah I was pretty cool, wasn't I?"

"Good thing you're modest." Jaune joked.

"Oh, Jaune, you're bleeding." Pyrrha walked to the blonde, her eyes focused on the cut just under his left eye.

"Huh? This?" he felt the cut. "Guess I got it when those Grimm nabbed me. It's just a scratch."

"Why haven't you activated your Aura yet?"

Jaune tilted his head. "My what?"

"You're Aura."

"Still not following."

Pyrrha sighed. "Jauneâ€|do you know what Aura is?"

"What? Of course I know what aura is." Jaune said defensively. "Do **you** know what aura is?"

Natsu started to snicker.

"Hey, don't make fun of me."

Pyrrha grinned.

"Aura is the manifestation of our souls." she explained to Jaune. "It bares our burdens, as well as shields our hearts. Have you ever felt like you being watched, but saw that no one was there?"

Jaune nodded. "Uhâ€|yeah, actually."

"That is what Aura is. With practice, it can become one's protection. Everyone has it. Even animals."

"What about the monsters? Do they have it?"

"No. The creatures we fight have no souls. They are the creatures of Grimm. The very manifestation of anonymity. They are the darkness, and we are the light."

"And that's why we fight them?"

"It's not about why. It's about knowing."

"Knowing what?"

"Knowing about both darkness and light helps us manifest our Aura. Everyone has some of both. By bearing your soul outward as a force, you can deflect harm. As such, all of our tools and equipment are conduits for Aura. In essence you project both your soul and yourself while fighting."

Jaune was still having trouble understanding.

"It's like a force field." Natsu spoke up. He had been sitting on a rock during the time Pyrrha had been talking to Jaune.

"That's a simplified way to look at it, yes." Pyrrha nodded.

"O~h." Jaune finally understood. "That makes much more sense."

Pyrrha walked to Jaune, placing her hand against his cheek.

"Now. Close your eyes and concentrate."

Jaune did as he was told and felt energy gather within his body.

"For it is in passing that we achieve immortality." Pyrrha chanted.

Natsu watched as both Pyrrha and Jaune's bodies started to glow. Hers red and his white.

"Through this we become a paragon of virtue and glory to rise above all. Infinite in distance unbound by death. I release your soul, and by my shoulder, protect thee." Pyrrha finished and stepped back.

Jaune looked at his hands. They were still glowing. "What's

happening?"

"I used my Aura to unlock yours. The energy that protects you now is your own." When she saw the cut on his face heal, she smiled. "You have a lot of it."

"Wow." Jaune smiled. "Thanks."

Pyrrha looked over to Natsu. "I can unlock yours as well if you wish."

"Uh ok. Sure." Natsu stepped forward and did just as Jaune had.

Pyrrha closed her eyes as well and placed her hand on his cheek. Her cheeks briefly turned red. _He's very warm._ She focused her Aura, her body glowing red once again. She soon found her consciousness entering Natsu's.

It's so dark in here.

Pyrrha floated around, trying to find the wellspring that housed Natsu's Aura. _Where is it?_ When she ventured deeper, she felt something odd.

"That's strange."

"What?" Natsu asked. "What's strange?"

"I feel another presence within you. Another soul."

"Another soul?" Jaune repeated.

"What does that mean?" Natsu asked.

"Please stop moving." Pyrrha instructed.

As she descended deeper into Natsu's mind, the force that she felt grew stronger. Eventually Pyrrha came upon where the feeling was strongest, but still she saw nothing but darkness.

What? There is nothing here...but I still feel the presence.

Suddenly there was a rumbling.

What's going on?!

Pyrrha watched in shock as an eye opened before her. It was massive. Almost as big as her entire body. Its piercing black pupil was surrounded by a bright yellow sclera.

Pyrrha's breath left her as she floated before the eye. _Wha-what is this?_

The eye began to glow, and a loud roar broke through the darkness, forcing the redhead out of Natsu's mind.

"Agh!" she screamed.

"Pyrrha!" Jaune called, running to her side.

Natsu caught her before she hit the ground. "Pyrrha, what happened?! Talk to me!"

She slowly opened her eyes. When she saw Natsu she instinctively backed away to the nearest tree.

"What's wrong?" Jaune asked.

Pyrrha realized what she was doing and took a deep breath in an attempt to calm her racing heart. "I-it's nothing. I-I'm fine."

"Why did you freak out like that?" Jaune asked, helping her to her feet.

"I thought I saw something."

"What? What did you see?"

Pyrrha thought back to the eye of the creature she saw inside Natsu. When she replayed its roar, her blood ran cold.

"Nothing. I didn't see anything." she lied.

"But you said-"

"I was just exhausted from unlocking you Aura beforehand. I imagined things."

"Are you sure you-" Natsu moved to Pyrrha when he suddenly felt a burst of energy. The next instant his body burst into flames. "What's going on?!"

"Natsu, you're on fire!" Jaune panicked.

"Quick we have to find something to put him out!" Pyrrha shouted.

"Y-Yeah! You're right! We need water!"

"It's ok, guys!" Natsu said, stopping the pair. "It...it doesn't hurtâ€|" he looked over his burning body and smiled. "Actually it feels kind of good."

"How does being on fire feel good?" Jaune questioned.

"He must have gone into shock." Pyrrha surmised.

Natsu clenched his fists and the fire ceased - much to the shock of his partners there wasn't a burn anywhere on his body, even his clothes were fine. When he opened them it came back. He slammed his fist into his open palm and the flames stopped again.

"This is awesome!" he screamed in delight. "I've never felt so powerful before. I feel like I could beat anybody!"

"Is that his Aura?" Jaune looked back to Pyrrha. She was also at a loss for words.

Natsu ran to his partner and grabbed her hand. "Thanks, Pyrrha! You're amazing!"

"Y-you're welcome." She blushed. "I'm glad I could help."

"Let's get moving!" Natsu pointed into the forest. "The others probably found the relics!" he ran off, leaving Pyrrha and Jaune behind.

"How can he be so happy after being on fire?" Jaune sighed. "Come on, Pyrrha."

"O-ok." Pyrrha nodded and followed Jaune. The pair now chasing behind Natsu.

I've never seen an Aura like that before. Is this because of that creature I saw inside of his body? Pyrrha looked at Natsu's smiling face in the distance. What is he?

"You guys are too slow!" the pink-haired teen shouted.

Jaune and Pyrrha finally caught up with Natsu. All three of them now standing in front of the entrance into a cave in the side of a cliff wall.

"A cave?" Pyrrha questioned.

"Is this where we're supposed to be?" Jaune asked Natsu.

"If I was hiding old relics, I'd put them in a cave." Natsu answered.

"Good point." Jaune found a stick to use as a torch. "Now we just need to find something to light it with."

"Coming right up."

Natsu snapped his fingers and a flame flickered on the edge of his index finger. He used the flame to light the torch.

"Thanks."

Jaune lead the way into the cave; Natsu and Pyrrha not far behind.

The deeper into the cave they went, the murkier and more unsettling the walk became.

"I don't think this is the right way." Pyrrha voiced her concern.

"Yeah, something in here doesn't smell right." Natsu added.

Jaune sighed. "I'm holding the torch. Could you guys humor me for at least five more feet?" Suddenly he tripped, dropping the torch into the muddy water below. The darkness quickly enveloped them, but Natsu quickly ignited his hand to illuminate the path again.

Jaune picked himself up from the ground and dusted himself off. "Ew." He said when his hand rubbed over the water on his sleeve.

Pyrrha looked around the cave. Something didn't feel right.

"Do you two feel that?" she asked the boys.

"Soul-crushing regret?" Jaune answered sarcastically.

"Hungry?" Natsu said, placing his hand on his growling stomach.

"No." Pyrrha said to both. "It's warm."

"What's that?"

Natsu pointed ahead, spotting something gold glowing in the distance.

Jaune's eyes widened in excitement. "That's the relic!" he ran to the glowing object, but when he reached for it, it moved away. "Hey. Bad relic."

He tried again, but the object moved a second time. Fed up with this game, Jaune jumped and latched onto the object.

"Gotcha!"

"Jaune!" Pyrrha warily called.

"Aw crap." Natsu voiced.

Jaune was slowly lifted into the air, and a host of red lights started to glow. When Jaune realized what it was he actually caught, he let out a high-pitched scream.

"What is that?!" Pyrrha shouted.

"We gotta go!" Natsu grabbed his partner by the arm and the two ran out of the cave, the monster inside following them.

When they cleared the cave entrance the creature burst out soon after, revealing itself to be a Death Stalker Grimm. It hissed angrily; snapping its claws while Jaune hung onto its stinger for dear life.

"It's not the relic!" he yelled in fright to his partners. "Guys, do something!"

"Jaune, hang on!" Pyrrha called. "And whatever you do don't let-"

Just then the Death Stalker whipped its tail, flinging Jaune further into the forest.

"Go." Pyrrha finished, watching helplessly as Jaune soared through the air.

"I'll go get him." Natsu volunteered. "You handle this thing."

"Natsu, wai -"

In a flash the pinkette was gone, leaving Pyrrha on her own to face the Death Stalker. She turned to confront it, holding her Milo javelin tightly as she slowly backed away. Seeing no way to defeat the creature on her own, Pyrrha took off after Natsu, the Death Stalker giving chase.

* * *

><p>"Ruby! I told you this was a bad idea!"</p>

"We're fine! Stop worrying!"

"I am so far beyond worrying!"

"â€œ| In a good way?!"

"No! In a bad way! A very bad way!"

Ruby and Weiss were currently soaring thousands of meters above the forestâ€œ|on the back of a Nevermore.

Not long after the two resumed their search for the temple, the reluctant partners were descended upon by the angry Grimm - it having been an inhabitant of the tree Ruby angrily cut down earlier.

After a few minutes of fruitless battle, young Ruby had what she thought was a marvelous idea at the time. She and Weiss would cling to the Nevermore's feathers and ride it into the air, hoping that the view from the sky would aid them in finding the temple ruins.

If their current situation was any indication, then clearly this plan was a well thought out one.

"Well why don't we just jump?!" Ruby suggested.

"What are you?! Insane?!" Weiss looked up, and Ruby was gone. "Oh you insufferable little-"

On the ground below, Yang was trying to get through to a somewhat unfocused Blake.

"Didn't you hear that scream earlier? We should do something about-"

Blake pointed to the sky.

Yang stopped talking and looked up, her eyes widening when she saw her sister falling towards them.

"Heads u~p!" Before the hooded girl splatted to the ground, she was hit by a flying Jaune. His force proved to be greater than hers and the pair shot into the canopy of the closest tree.

Ruby sat on a high branch, her head spinning from the impact.

"What was that?" she groaned. Shaking the dizziness away Ruby heard the sound of someone clearing their throat. Looking up, she saw Jaune hanging upside down in front of her.

"Hi, Ruby." He weakly waved.

Blake and Yang stared for a while at the tree, still unsure of what they just saw. Blake was the first to break the silence.

"Did your sister just-"

"Jaune?!"

Yang and Blake watched Natsu run up to them.

"Oh its the black-haired chick and Ruby's sister. You two haven't seen a guy with blonde hair fly by here have you?"

"My name is Blake." The dark-haired girl irritably corrected.

Just then an Ursula emerged from the forest. It flailed around, roaring in pain before a spark of purple lighting erupted from its back. When it fell over dead, a girl with short orange hair rolled from its back to the ground.

"Aw." She moped, looking at the dead creature. "It's broken."

"Nora!" A young man with long black hair stepped from behind the Ursula, one hand on his knee and the other on the dead monster while he bent over to catch his breath.

"Pleaseâ€|" he huffed. "Don't ever do that again."

With a whoosh Nora had ran to the temple, her eyes gazing in wonder at the golden rook piece. She yanked it from its pedestal and started to dance. "I'm queen of the castle. I'm queen of the castle." She sang.

"Nora!" her partner shouted.

The girl stopped singing and giggled. "Coming, Ren."

She skipped away, leaving Yang and Blake even more confused than they were before.

"Did that girl just ride on an Ursula?" Blake asked.

Natsu on the other hand was ecstatic. "Cool!"

The craziness kept coming when Pyrrha ran into the field, the Death Stalker still hot on her tail. She narrowly avoided the monster's massive claws from clamping down on her. When she saw her partner in the distance she called to him.

"Natsu!"

Jaune heard the redhead's voice from the tree. "Pyrrha?!"

Ruby â€" having regained her faculties â€" jumped from the tree.

"Wait! Ruby!"

The hooded girl rolled over to where her sister and the others were standing.

"Ruby?" her sister called.

"Yang!"

Nora forced herself between the two sisters, shouting her own name before the two could embrace.

The group watched Pyrrha barely outrun the Death Stalker.

"I thought you were going to take care of that thing?!" Natsu shouted to the redhead.

"As you can see—" Pyrrha strafed to the right, narrowly avoiding the monster's stinger. "That task is easier said than done!"

"Need help?!"

"I would appreciate it!"

"On the way!" Natsu ran to his partner.

"Thank you!"

"Did that girl just run all the way here with a Death Stalker on her tail?" Blake pointed.

"I can't take this anymore!" Yang shouted, her Ember Celica firing at the ground as her eyes turned red. "Will everybody just chill out for two seconds before something crazy happens again?!"

The group stood in silence for a little over two seconds — Nora bouncing up down while her partner breathlessly jogged over to join them.

Ruby patted her sisters arm. "Um—Yang?" she pointed to the sky and every looked upwards, seeing Weiss hanging onto the claw of a Nevermore.

"How could you leave me?!" the heiress shouted to Ruby.

"I told you to jump." Ruby reminded.

Natsu jumped back to avoid the Death Stalker's claw. His head craned upward to see the Nevermore. When he saw his sister hanging on to its claw he smiled.

"I wanna go next!"

"You idiot! This isn't a ride! Help me!"

The rest of the group watched Weiss hold on for dear life to the creature's claws.

"She's gonna fall." Blake said.

"She'll be fine." Ruby meekly reassured.

Just then Weiss' grip slipped.

"And she's falling." Ren pointed out.

"Natsu~!" Weiss screamed on her way down.

"Don't worry, Weiss! I'm coming!" Natsu darted off, leaving Pyrrha alone once again.

"Natsu, where are you going?!"

Natsu watched his sister plummet to ground and jumped into the air. Jaune watched Weiss fall as well.

Seeing this as his big opportunity to get on the girl's good side, Jaune leapt from the tree with his arms out to catch her. As he closed in on her, Natsu stepped onto his face.

The pinkette used the added spring to catch his sister in mid-air.

"Gotcha!"

"What took you so long?!" Weiss yelled, tears in the corners of her eyes as she held onto him.

"Sorry." He smiled.

Jaune fell to the ground face first, his legs twitching as they stuck up in the air.

Inexplicably Ruby and the others had scorecards for this occasion. Ruby held up a five, Nora and Yang held up tens, Ren held up a three, and Blake gave Jaune a one.

Natsu landed on his feet soon after. Weiss secured in his arms. They were scored as well.

Ruby, Nora, and Ren all gave Natsu tens. Blake gave Natsu an eight. And finally Yang gave the pinkette a six.

"Are you serious?!" Natsu shouted at the blonde. "A six?! That landing was at least an eight!"

"I agree, that score hardly seems fair." Weiss added.

Yang shrugged. "What can I say? Your dismount was a little shaky."

Natsu sighed. "Whatever." He heard a groan from below and looked down, finally took notice of Jaune. "What are you doing down there?"

"Just picking up the pieces of my shattered pride." Jaune muttered, his voice muffed by the dirt.

In the distance the Death Stalker finally caught up to Pyrrha, using its tail to knock her towards the rest of the group.

"Great, the gang's all here." Yang said. She and the others watched as the Nevermore swooped down, and the Death Stalker skittered over to them.

"Now we can all die together."

* * *

><p>New chapter!

**A bit longer than the others. I really wasn't shooting for that, but it just ended up happening. I hope it didn't come out too cluttered. I tried to make things as evenly paced as possible.
**

**And for those going to ask, yes, Pyrrha saw exactly who you think she saw. That will expanded upon later, but for now I hope you liked the tease. I also tried to inject more comedy in the chapter since that is one of RWBY's bright spots as a series. **

**Next time is the end of the initiation as well as the formation of teams. Some of you may be surprised where Natsu ends up. **

As always leave a comment/review letting me what know what you think and thanks for reading! :)

End
file.